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KENT ON SUNDAY

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24 PAGES COMPLETE WITH EXPERT ANALYSIS FROM BBC PUNDITS MARK LAWRENSON AND ALAN SHEARER PLUS A WALLCHART TO FOLLOW EVERY GAME IN SOUTH AFRICA

TEACHERS SICK OF TARGETS CULTURE

Unions blame stress and government targets for the millions spent on supply teachers to cover for ill staff

By **MARIJKE COX**

STRESSED teachers are taking thousands of days off work each year as the target culture in schools takes its toll.

Figures obtained through a Freedom of Information (FoI) request revealed that in 2008, primary and secondary teachers working for Kent County Council took a total of 61,941 days off sick. The previous year showed a similar figure of more than 60,000 days.

Figures for 2009 were not available at the time of the request, but numbers were expected to be around the same.

Statistics showed the 13,500 teachers working in KCC-run schools were absent for an average of almost one working week each per year. This is in addition to the three months annual paid leave teachers receive.

Medway Council was unable to provide KOS Media with the number of days lost in its area, but revealed that in 2008-09, 1,692 teachers were off sick, 65 off without authorisation. In 2009-10, 1,328 teachers took sick days.

Supply teachers drafted in to take over classes cost up to £200 a day, meaning millions of pounds of public money is spent each year on cover.

But teaching unions have defended the figures, blaming the stress of the job, with a report by the NASUWT union

CONTINUED ON PAGE TWO

Picture: TONY STIGLE

The Queen gives top awards to volunteer groups

SEE INSIDE FOR FULL STORY

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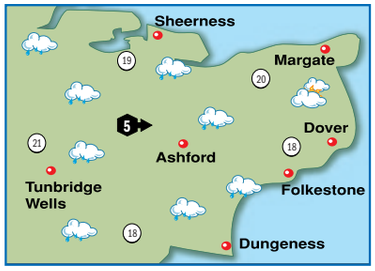
Kent today



TODAY: It looks set to be rather unsettled with showers or longer spells of rain expected, some of which may be on the heavy side. Gentle westerly winds. Max temp 19-22C (66-72F). **TONIGHT:** Showers are expected to clear to the east to leave a largely dry night. Min temp 11-14C (52-57F).

Around Britain

		°C	°F			°C	°F
Aberdeen	rain	13	55	London	rain	22	72
Belfast	cloudy	17	63	Liverpool	fair	17	63
Birmingham	showers	20	68	Manchester	showers	18	64
B'mouth	cloudy	21	70	Newcastle	rain	17	63
Bristol	fair	16	61	Norwich	showers	20	68
Cardiff	fair	18	64	Oxford	showers	21	70
Cork	cloudy	16	61	Southsea	rain	20	68
Edinburgh	rain	16	61	S'hampton	drizzle	21	70
Glasgow	cloudy	17	63	Southport	fair	16	61
Isle of Man	fair	15	59	Swansea	fair	17	63
Leeds	showers	18	64	Torquay	cloudy	17	63

Sun & moon

Sunrise	4.40am	Sunset	9.09pm	Lighting up times:
Moonrise	1.22am	Moonset	2.32pm	9.09pm to 4.39am

High Tides

	today				tomorrow			
		ht (m)		ht (m)		ht (m)		ht (m)
Dover	06.41	5.2	18.58	5.4	07.42	5.2	19.59	5.5
Margate	07.26	3.8	19.35	3.9	08.27	3.9	20.36	3.9
St Mary's	–	–	12.27	4.2	00.55	4.4	13.32	4.3

Week ahead

monday Rather cloudy. max 19C min 11C

tuesday Showers. max 18C min 10C

wednesday Cloudy but dry. max 18C min 10C

thursday Dull with rain. max 19C min 12C

friday Fine and sunny. max 18C min 11C

saturday Sunny and dry. max 18C min 11C

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KCC accused of misleading over special needs

PARENTS of special needs children left without specialist school placements have slammed education officials – claming they have been misled.

By **MARIJKE COX**
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Disheartened parents have argued that after being told by Kent County Council that units catering for primary children with learning disabilities were to close, they have since discovered they are staying open.

But where parents were originally told of the closures, many had to secure places in mainstream schools, which do not offer the support of a unit, in preparation for the start of the academic year in September.

Many did not pursue admission for a unit, believing there was no point if closures were imminent.

Deborah Aspland, from Ashford, has three children with disabilities. Her four-year-old daughter has severe language problems, her daughter's twin brother is blind and their older brother has excess fluid on the brain and autistic tendencies.

Although Ms Aspland's youngest son has a place at Morehall Special Education Needs (SEN) Unit in Cheriton, her daughter is going to a mainstream school after being told the Linden Grove speech unit in Ashford, where she wanted her to go, was closing.

She claims a SEN co-ordinator from KCC told her there was no point applying for a place as units would soon cease to exist.

Integrate

Ms Aspland said: "I was told not to apply and when I rang Linden Grove they told us the same. We got my daughter into a mainstream school, even though she is unable to even say her own name, but now I have found out – through Facebook – that units are in fact available.

"We've bought her uniform for September and can't afford to buy another one for a new school. So we've decided to see how she gets on in mainstream. She's going in under School Action Plus which provides support for SEN children, but I'm very angry about the whole situation."

Units are attached to schools, but children with learning difficulties are given support away from other pupils by specially trained staff.

SEN students, who are given statements setting out their needs, are able to integrate with the mainstream school for some activities. But with regular mainstream schooling, special needs children are expected to integrate the whole time, with some outreach and support from teachers.

Ms Aspland said, however, this is not enough for some with severe disabilities and she is furious that KCC has "quietly" reversed the policy.

"We will have to see how she gets on at mainstream; if not we will have to go down the statement route which could take two years. KCC are claiming they don't know of anyone who has been turned away from a unit, but that's because people were told not to apply," she added.

Independent education advisor Peter Read said he knew of half a dozen families in the same situation, but suspected there could be more.

"First of all KCC said the units were closing and now they are saying they are not closing," he said.

"It seems as though they are staying open, but not admitting children. I want KCC to acknowledge the parents of those children who did not apply after being told units do not exist."

Mr Read said the council was looking at phasing out SEN units and instead integrating children to mainstream institutions in what would be called Lead schools, which have specialist provision.

A pilot is being run by KCC looking an SEN support.

A KCC spokesman said: "A pilot is currently running in Ashford, Shepway and north west Kent and it is the subject of evaluation. In running the pilot, it was never the council's intention to lose the expertise in our units, but to strengthen them and to build on the opportunities for using that expertise to support and build capacity in the other mainstream schools.

"At no point before or during the pilot were any decisions taken by elected members to close units."

The spokesman added: "If any parent feels disadvantaged because of misinformation, they should contact Kent County Council and we will review their case and do what we can to assist where possible."

Headteachers point to strain placed on staff

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

last month stating the target-driven culture in schools was putting staff under increased pressure.

Teachers have also admitted that targets such as the National Challenge, where 30 per cent of pupils in every secondary school must achieve 5 A*-C GCSE grades, were putting more stress on teachers, especially those in non-selective schools with mixed ability children.

Cllr Gary Cooke, deputy cabinet member for children, families and education at KCC, said the council was working with schools to help reduce staff absence and promote wellbeing.

"This helps to minimise the cost of supply teachers, which cost in the region on £150-£200 per day," he said.

"However, it also needs to be remembered that many schools have plans in place to deal with occasional absence due to sickness."

Cllr Cooke defended the absentee figures by stating that Kent schools outperform private sector companies.

"Teachers have a phenomenally difficult job to do, but on average the latest figures show less than five days sick per annum, per teacher.

"This is lower than the current average of more than six sick days a year taken by workers at private companies."

Nationally, 313,000 teachers were off sick in 2008 – more than half of the workforce. In 2009, this figure dropped to 309,000, but the total number of working days lost was 2,695,000.

Across the UK, the average number of days off sick for all teachers was just under five – the same as Kent – but for those who actually took time off, the average was eight days.

Teacher unions have blamed pressures of the job for causing stress which subsequently leads to poorer health and absenteeism.

A spokesman from Teacher Support Network, a group of independent charities offering help to teachers, said the circumstances under which they work are incredibly pressured.

Research carried out at the same time as the FoI figures by the Teacher Support Network showed 87 per cent of teachers had suffered from stress.

Two-thirds also admitted experiencing anxiety and more than 42 per cent had suffered from depression. Thirty per cent said they had taken time off work due to stress and other common mental health problems.

The spokesman said the "sign of weakness" stigma should be addressed so staff are not afraid to admit when they are struggling.

With the introduction of the National Challenge headteachers have admitted staff in core subjects such as maths and English were feeling the strain.

Andrew Somers, principle of Hartsdown Technology Collge in Margate, said: "These targets have put them under massively increased stress."

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Day Cameron failed to charm his Tories

PM once lost fight to stand for Kent seat

SOME 16 years ago a young David Cameron sat in a small village hall in Kent waiting to hear if he had made his first crucial step into the political arena, ***writes Marijke Cox***.

Beside him sat the now Home Secretary Theresa May and the man that would pip him to the post as Conservative parliamentary candidate for Ashford, Damian Green.

Just 27 at the time, Mr Cameron – who had his 23-year-old girlfriend Samantha with him – gave a presentation he hoped would persuade the Tenterden branch of the Tory party to choose him to fight for the Ashford seat in the House of Commons.

But despite his efforts, Mr Green – then aged 38 – was selected for the role.

More than a decade and a half later, however, the Ashford MP, who has held the seat since 1997, stands beside the Prime Minister, his former opponent, as minister for state for borders and immigration.

One of those to remember the battle between the three now-senior figures is Annette Hill who was secretary of the Tenterden branch of the Tory Party.

"At the time I was hugely impressed with David Cameron – I thought he was outstanding," she said.

"He was my number one. It was a secret vote and I can admit now that I voted for him to be the Ashford candidate. He had to give a presentation and he just sparkled. He was very young at the time, but very positive.

"After Damian Green was chosen I told people to look out for David Cameron. I thought he would end up in the Cabinet and that he could one day be Prime Minister."

LONG TIME COMING: David Cameron and his wife Samantha finally make it to Number 10

Eton

Mrs Hill believes Mr Cameron's age was against him, but she also suggested his public schoolboy roots may have played a part.

"He went to Eton and I think that was a big no-no, because of all the anti-Tory talk – the party was concerned about image," she said.

"His parents probably did all they could to give him a good education, and yet it may have worked against him."

Mrs Hill said she found it "quite thrilling" seeing Mr Cameron and his wife at the door of Downing Street on May 11, years after watching him vie for the Ashford candidacy.

"I thought it was lovely when he opened the door of Number 10 for his wife. Manners are so important. He had that star quality even at that young age," she said.

Asked whether she thinks he would have been a good MP for Ashford, she said: "People voted for Damian Green who was a good chap with a young family. I'm not sure whether it's good to have the PM as MP for your constituency as he has so many other things to do."

Mr Cameron became MP for Witney in Oxfordshire in 2000.

Road toll for overseas HGV drivers on cards

A LONG-running campaign to get foreign lorry drivers to pay for the privilege of using Kent's roads may have moved a giant step closer, *writes Marijke Cox*.

Prime Minister David Cameron and his coalition Government have promised to introduce a system of HGV road-user charges to ensure a "fairer arrangement" for UK hauliers.

Although no definite plans have been unveiled, haulage firms and County Hall officials are welcoming the news.

Hopes are that foreign lorry drivers will have to pay to use roads, following years of lobbing by the county's politicians.

Kent County Council leader Cllr Paul Carter said: "We've been lobbing this for a long time and I'm delighted to see some light at the end of the tunnel.

"We need to start charging foreign lorry drivers to use our roads.

"They fill up their tanks cheaply in Luxembourg, drive on our roads and wear them out, but they contribute nothing.

"We don't see any road duty paid by them."

Cllr Carter believes the Government and new secretary of state for transport Philip Hammond will help change the situation.

He added that charges would also help deliver plans for a third Thames crossing, which were unveiled in January in KCC's blueprint for Kent's future development.

He said: "The charges would help deliver improvements to our roads. There are all sorts of ways improving the system. We will work together with the Department of Transport."

Thousands of overseas lorry drivers travel through Kent every year to and from the Channel Tunnel and Port of Dover.

In March, a committee of MPs called for closer regulation of foreign hauliers, claiming they pay less for fuel, drive unsafe vehicles and flout road safety laws.

Overseas drivers caught speeding on the county's cameras have also been able to avoid paying hefty fines.

Haulage firms in Kent are celebrating plans to bring in fairer arrangements, with ideas about what the Government could do.

Chris Kennett, general manager of Coombe Valley Transport Ltd, in Dover, said he thinks all hauliers should pay to use the roads, but British drivers should get a rebate on fuel.

He said: "In Germany as soon as you cross the border you are on their system and they make sure you pay. For us to go to Munich it costs £300 in road tolls."

A spokeswoman from the Department of Transport said they are working towards a fairer system.

Hero's medal pride

A KENT soldier has been awarded the George Medal by the Queen.

Paul Jacobs, 21, from Ramsgate, was given the medal at Buckingham Palace this week.

Rfl Jacobs, who served in Afghanistan with the 2nd Battalion The Rifles, was blinded by a Taliban bomb, yet continued to protect the rest of his colleagues.

He is the first person in the Rifles to receive the George Medal and said he was "very proud" to receive it.

Rfl Jacobs will donate the medal to the battalion in recognition of the men who have fallen in the Afghanistan conflict.

Gaza plea by MP

CANTERBURY Tory MP Julian Brazier has demanded Israel lift its blockade of Gaza.

He raised the issue in the Commons with Foreign Secretary William Hague after the Israeli army stormed an aid flotilla.

Mr Brazier said: "The humanitarian situation is appalling and the plight of many Palestinians desperate following the Israeli demolition of much of the area last year.

"The Israelis should urgently lift the blockade of Gaza, and allow normal economic life to continue."

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Queen says thanks to volunteers

TWO groups from Kent have scooped prestigious Queen's Awards for Voluntary Service.

They are among 17 across the South East to get the award, which is known as the MBE for volunteer groups.

They recognise outstanding contributions made to local communities by volunteers who give their time for the benefit of others.

The Kent winners were picked from a shortlist of 341 groups nominated in the South East by the public, making the award so much more important.

The groups get a certificate signed by the Queen and an engraved crystal trophy, presented by Kent's Lord Lieutenant Allan Willett. The groups also receive an invitation to attend a Royal Garden Party at Buckingham Palace in the summer.

The Kent winners are the Medway Valley Countryside Partnership Thursday Action Group, which promotes conservation, access, education and recreation projects in the Kent countryside and suburban areas, and Medway Aircraft Preservation Society, (MAPS), which restores rare vintage and often unique aircraft, including those from the collection of the Royal Air Force Museum.

Picture: TONY STIGLE

RECOGNITION: The Thursday Action Group, and Medway Aircraft Preservation Society

MAPS managing director Lewis Deal said: "Every member of MAPS shares this honour."

Caroline Drewett, partnership manager at Medway Valley Countryside Partnership, said: "We are very proud of the award. It demonstrates the fantastic work [volunteers] do in looking after the countryside."

The awards started in 2002 to mark the Queen's Golden Jubilee. The purpose is to recognise groups of individuals who give their time freely for the benefit of others, and is the highest honour that can be bestowed upon groups of this kind.

Moroccan jail for Securitas robber

THE mastermind of the £53 million Securitas heist in Tonbridge has been jailed for 10 years in Morocco.

Lee Murray, 30, had claimed Moroccan citizenship through his father's birth to avoid extradition to this country.

The cagefighter, from Sidcup, fled to the north African country after Britain's biggest cash robbery on February 21, 2006.

Police believe he was the ringleader of the heavily armed gang that raided the Securitas depot in Tonbridge.

They kidnapped depot manager Colin Dixon and held his family at gunpoint to force him to help them pull off the raid.

More than £21m of the missing Securitas loot has been recovered by the police, but £32m is still outstanding.

To see this search 'Edinburgh'
@ yourkenttv.co.uk

Flybe now flies to Edinburgh from Manston airport, and is planning a new service to Manchester

Race is on for Kent move

County's hot property for TV chef

By MARIJKE COX
marijke.cox@kosmedia.co.uk

CELEBRITY chef John Burton Race is set to move to Kent after landing a top job running four of the county's restaurants.

Just months after KOS Media revealed how the I'm a Celebrity… Get Me Out of Here star dreamt of moving to the county, the 52-year-old gave in to temptation and is now on the lookout for a new home.

INCOMER: John Burton Race

It follows his appointment as group executive chef of Kent Inns of Distinction, owned by husband and wife Richard and Sherry Martin, after a year of consultancy work with the company.

Mr and Mrs Martin own Harveys in Ramsgate, The Dog Inn at Wingham, The Blazing Donkey in Sandwich and The Ivyhouse in Tonbridge.

Burton Race, who has left his job at Michelin-starred The New Angel in Devon, said his new position would give him more freedom in the restaurants and admitted he was excited about taking the reigns.

"I'm going to drive these places like I want them to be driven," he said. "My challenge is made easier as I already have a very talented brigade of chefs to work with.

"Already there has been a big difference at Harveys. I've started a more informal menu to complement the a la carte menu.

"People can come in and have fresh fish and a glass of wine in relaxed surroundings instead of having a three-course meal.

"It's great for the summer when people are out in casual clothes and just want to relax with a drink and something light to eat.

"I think for Ramsgate this is perfect. In the next 12 months I think we'll go from strength to strength. We've found a niche which will attract the locals, which is the most important thing."

Burton Race, who trained under renowned chef Raymond Blanc, is now on the lookout for a new home in Kent, where he will move with his girlfriend and five-year-old son.

He said: "I'm tentatively starting to look around for a home that will suit us.

"I'm going to bring my girlfriend here so she can see how beautiful it is – after all, women make the decisions.

"I've fallen in love with Kent and I want her to as well. I love the countryside, and the beauty about living in Kent is its proximity to London. It's a win-win. Since working in Kent my television filming schedule has grown enormously and with the new high-speed rail link I can be in London in under an hour from my base here."

Burton Race, who is originally from Singapore, said he will continue with his television work, but is excited about his new job.

"I'm delighted to have this new challenge," he added. "I'm going to be filming for TV shows, but spending quadruple the amount of time here in Kent."

During his consultancy work with Kent Inns of Distinction, there were two new site openings and Harveys was awarded a coveted AA rosette for its demonstration of culinary excellence.

Mr Martin said he was pleased with the progress so far.

"John's expertise has already had a positive impact with the AA awarding Harveys the company's first rosette after only two months of opening," he said.

Burton Race started out as an apprentice chef as a teenager. He went on to cook and train with Blanc at Le Manoir aux Quat'Saisons in Oxford and then progressed further, taking over the prestigious Landmark London Hotel and winning two Michelin stars.

He opened his own restaurant aged 26.

In 2005, his Devon restaurant The New Angel scooped a Michelin star.

The heroes behind the scenes

WHILE the countdown to the World Cup in South Africa is grabbing the headlines, KOS Media's Fab Football campaign is aiming to take advantage of the surge in interest to boost participation in the sport.

The campaign was launched last weekend with support from England coach Fabio Capello and new sports minister Hugh Robertson.

This week the spotlight turns to one of the sport's unsung groups, the county's volunteer workforce. Often overlooked, they put in the hours behind the scenes to ensure clubs and leagues can continue to exist.

We speak to some of the inspiring people who are dedicating themselves at grassroots level, proving you don't have to be a player to make a real impact.

• *See the sports section for the full story.*

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THE INTERVIEW

BY JANE CONNOLLY

Tonia's in the swim after fashion shoot

PERSONAL assistant Tonia Brundell is making a big splash as the face of Speedo's latest swimwear range.

Designed to flatter three key female body shapes, the Speedo Shapeline collection is described as "the closest to made-to-measure swimwear on the market".

Brundell, 35, from Ashford, was one of three 'ordinary' women chosen to model the new swimsuits and was delighted to be a part of the campaign.

"I was absolutely flattered," she said. "It was exciting and something outside my normal day-to-day life. I'd never done anything like it. I was really proud to be involved."

In a society obsessed with skinny models and physical perfection, it seemed unlikely that, at size 16, Brundell would be asked to model swimwear.

But she came to Speedo's attention when she applied to take part in market research, as part of the company's efforts to design swimwear for 'real' women.

"A friend told me about an advert in the paper looking for people who struggled to find swimwear, so I was interested," she said.

"I was sent a questionnaire and invited to join a panel. As far as I was concerned, it was just market research and I was measured all over my body, in places I've never been measured before.

"Towards the end, the PR agency called to say that I was one of the last three people selected to be part of the campaign."

Brundell and her fellow models had a taste of the high life when they were whisked to a photo shoot with celebrity photographer Mary McCartney, daughter of Sir Paul McCartney.

"It was just out of this world. They treated us like A-list celebrities all day," she said.

"To have a glass of champagne in your hand at 8.30am was great. Mary is a great photographer and she was lovely with us."

Most importantly, Brundell was keen to promote swimwear that had been designed with 'normal' women's figures in mind.

"It's something I struggled with for years – body shape, body image and swimwear," she said. "It's so personal and the closest you get to being naked. Speedo has worked on it for five years and it meant they were really interested in what women thought. It was great to be part of it and to go out and tell women about this fantastic product."

Although there has been a long-running public debate about the negative impact of size-zero models and celebrities, progress in the media is slow and Brundell thinks Speedo's campaign will be a welcome move for many women.

"There have been a few stories about size-16 models on the catwalks and I think it's turned slightly.

"Normal women don't want to look at size-six models, it just makes us feel worse about ourselves. It's brilliant that Speedo wanted normal women with all our lumps and bumps. To know that people want to see my body in swimwear was just so flattering and has done wonders for my self-confidence."

BATHING BEAUTY: Size 16 Tonia Brundell was chosen to model Speedo's Shapeline range

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No sympathy from the gay rights lobby as expenses cheat minister Laws goes

By MARIJKE COX
marijke.cox@kosmedia.co.uk

A GAY rights group has condemned former cabinet minister David Laws' secrecy over his sexuality, claiming it has set the movement back.

Campaigners from Pride in Canterbury also pointed out the discrepancy between the shamed Chief Secretary of the Treasury's fear of coming out and the Lib Dem policy on lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) rights.

In its manifesto, the party pledged to increase LGBT representation in Parliament, where before the election only two per cent of MPs were openly gay.

Andrew Brettel, from Pride in Canterbury, said Mr Laws' actions showed the gay community still had a long way to go to achieve equality.

"It should be easy to be openly gay in Government, given that before the election the three main parties seemed keen to show how committed they were to diversity issues," he said.

In a statement, Mr Laws, MP for Yeovil in Somerset since 2001, apologised for his actions after it was revealed he had used taxpayers' money to pay more than £40,000 in rent to his long-term partner James Lundie.

In 2006, rules were changed at Westminster to stop payments to partners, but Mr Laws – who unsuccessfully contested the Folkestone and Hythe seat against Michael Howard in 1997 – continued to claim by failing to disclose his relationship with Mr Lundie. He said his motivation was not to maximise profit, but to keep his sexuality a secret.

Martin Lammas, from Pride in Canterbury, said: "His constituency should have the opportunity to call him back and make him stand again. What chance have they got of him standing up for their rights when he can't stand up for his own?"

Lib Dem members have also criticised Mr Laws' actions and supported his decision to step down from his position at Westminster.

Peter Carroll, Kent's most high-profile Lib Dem after his successful Gurkha resettlement rights campaign, said: "However much I feel for David Laws, you can't have a Government minister who does something where it suggests there is one rule for them and one rule for another."

Despite the revelations, colleagues including Prime Minister David Cameron and deputy Nick Clegg paid tribute to Mr Laws.

Mr Carroll said he understood why: "I think there is a sense of compassion in most people and they can see he has gone through a real personal trauma."

But while some are forgiving of Mr Laws' actions, the gay community are calling on him to make amends by making LGBT issues his primary task in Parliament.

Mr Lammas said: "Until we stop the situation where people like David Laws stay in the closet for no good reason, people in the rest of the UK are going to continue to do so."

CLOSETED: Members of the gay community are disappointed in David Laws

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Track to the top

FASTRACK buses between Dartford and Gravesend have scooped an international honour.

At a prestigious awards ceremony recognising innovation in public transport, Fastrack was made joint runner-up out of 26 schemes worldwide, along with the public transport system in India's seventh largest city, Ahmedabad. Top spot went to Spain's capital, Madrid.

The awards were made by the International Transport Forum and the International Public Transport Union at a ceremony in Germany.

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YOUR photograph could help market the county's best attractions.

The Association of Tourist Attractions in Kent is seeking the perfect image for the front cover of the 2011 Best Places to Visit in Kent leaflet with a summer photo competition.

The winning photographer will get a a magnum of champagne courtesy of Chislehurst Caves plus a Dover-Calais return from P&O Ferries and a pass for two people to visit up to six of Kent's leading attractions.

See www.kentattractions.co.uk for details.

eBay cheat trial

A BENEFIT cheat stole from taxpayers for more than two years despite pocketing £65,847 through eBay.

Gary Boulton, of Amsbury Road, Hunton, sold goods on the online marketplace but continued to claim Job Seekers Allowance and financial help for housing and council tax between August 1, 2006, and May 2, 2008.

He pleaded guilty to failing to inform the council of his earnings at Maidstone Magistrates' Court on May 25 and was sentenced to complete 150 hours unpaid work within 12 months and to pay costs of £400.

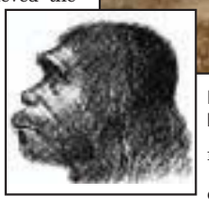
French cavemen were first Dartford residents

NEW findings suggest Dartford may have originally been established by Neanderthals, ***writes Chris Murphy***.

BACK IN TIME: The deep trench flint findings indicate Neanderthal man may have returned to Kent after the Ice Age much earlier than originally thought

It was always known that Neanderthals had arrived back from mainland Europe, but a fresh find of flints has moved the time back.

Neanderthal man lived in Europe for 260,000 years. Scientists had believed the ancestors of modern man arrived in Britain about 65,000 years ago. But this find means they may have to revise their timeframe.



The flints are waste flakes from the manufacture of unknown tools to probably cut up animals for food.

A University of Southampton archaeologist and Oxford Archaeology spotted evidence that Neanderthals were living in Britain at the start of the last ice age.

Commissioned by Oxford Archaeology, the university's Dr Francis Wenban-Smith discovered two ancient flint hand tools at the junction of the M25 and A2.

They were found during a Highways Agency excavation, and mean Dartford could have been founded by the Neanderthals.

Tests on sediment burying the flints show they date from around 110,000 years ago, proving Neanderthals were living in Britain at this time. Until now, it was believed Kent and all of the UK was an empty wilderness after the Ice Age forced everyone south 200,000 years ago, with Neanderthals not returning until 65,000 years ago.

Dr Wenban-Smith said: "I couldn't believe my eyes when I received the test results.

"We know Neanderthals inhabited northern France at this time, but this new evidence suggests that as soon as sea levels dropped, and a 'land bridge' appeared across the Channel, they made the journey by foot to Kent."

This new discovery shows they returned to our shores much earlier than 65,000 years ago, as previous evidence suggested.

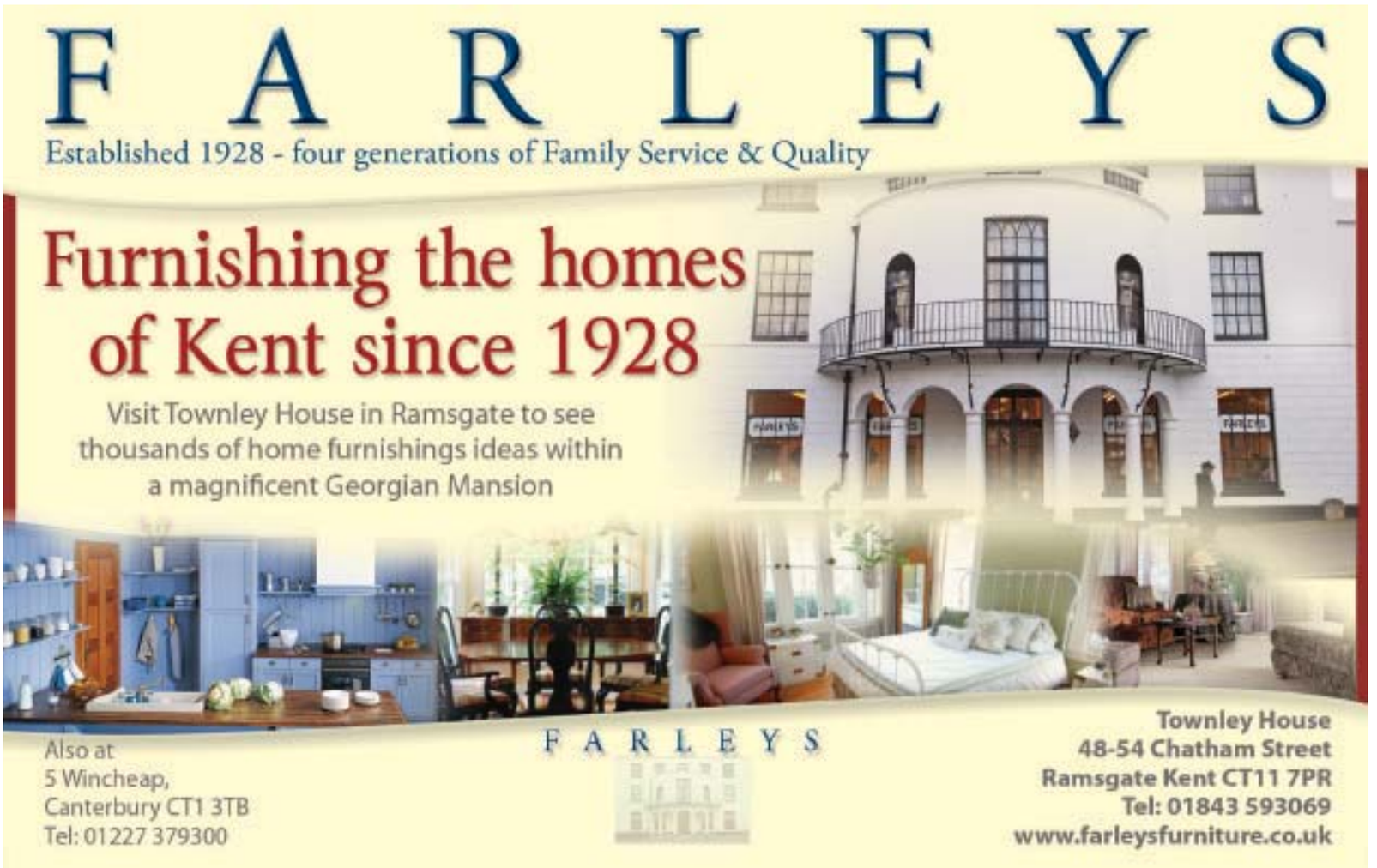
Oxford Archaeology project manager David Score said: "The fieldwork uncovered a significant amount of activity at the Dartford site in the Bronze Age and Roman periods, but it is deeper trenches which have yielded the most interesting results – shedding light on a long period when there was assumed to have been an absence of early man from Britain."

One theory is that Neanderthals may have been attracted back to Kent by the flint-rich chalk downs visible from France. These supported mammoth, rhino, horse and deer – an important food source in sub-arctic conditions.

Dr Wenban-Smith added: "These are people who had no real shelter – no houses, not even caves, so we can only speculate that by the time they returned, they had developed physiologically to cope with the cold, as well as behavioural strategies such as planning winter stores and making good use of fire."

Dr Wenban-Smith said more evidence is needed to date their occupations accurately.

Other results from the project include the discovery of a woolly rhino tooth in the floodplain gravels of the River Darent, dated at around 40,000 years old.



Mini-hospital wins inventor major award

By CHRIS MURPHY
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

WE'VE HAD a jack-in-the-box, and even a boyfriend-in-a-box, but a leading Kent medic has designed a hospital in a box so well he has won a major national award.

Surgical technician Alexander Bushell is also an acclaimed inventor, and his innovative design for a super-compact treatment centre has taken the world by storm.

He has now received the Innovation Award at the inaugural Performance Awards in London.

Working with his team of NHS technicians, he is responsible for the concept and design that allows medical teams to carry out life-saving operations almost anywhere in the world.

The awards are designed to put the spotlight on exceptional individual achievement.

Mr Bushell, 49, who runs Global Medical Systems at the Kent Science Park in Sittingbourne, said: "This operating theatre can be in action for around £20,000.

"Our first ones have already gone to Nigeria and we're hopeful there will be many more takers around the world.

"It would be of particular use in places where people have suffered bullet and shrapnel wounds or burns, so the military application is very important.

"You get everything that would normally be found in theatre, like an anaesthetic machine, multi-parameter monitoring, lights, and kit-packs of consumables.

"It is all designed for special locations. So the military packs would be different to those for dealing with things like cataracts.

"And it comes with its own solar system. You can use wind turbines or pedal power."

Inset picture: PAUL WINTERTON

LIFE-SAVER: Alexander Bushell won the award for his compact treatment centre

The awards were created by Scottish international performance consultant, Gerry Rose, who put together a renowned independent panel to identify breakthrough achievements and encourage future talent across a variety of categories.

He said: "It is perhaps paradoxical that the inspiration for today's event stemmed from the global economic challenges that came to the fore in late 2008.

"At that time, a few of us got together to develop the idea of telling the stories behind the great feats of performance that are constantly happening across the UK.

"Sharing of our nominee stories is a great way of inspiring people."

Find more news and sport updated daily
www.kentnews.co.uk

Arsonist jailed for blowing up home

AN MAN who blew up the house he shared with his partner, after she jilted him, has been jailed for six years.

Alistair Gray, 39, of Minterne Avenue, Sittingbourne, admitted committing arson at the property in Recreation Way, Kemsley, in April, 2009.

He was sentenced at Maidstone Crown Court on Tuesday.

The ex-cabbie waited for Jane Thornton to leave for work before dousing the three-bedroom property with petrol and setting it alight. The fire caused an explosion which destroyed the house and killed the family's pet dog.

Speaking after the trial, Det Con Carli Davis said: "What Gray did was utterly reckless and it's a miracle there weren't more casualties."

Cabbies get go ahead to fly flag

TAXI drivers in Canterbury will be allowed to fly a flag for the World Cup following a campaign against town hall rules.

It has long been the policy of Canterbury council to stop drivers it licenses in the area flying flags. The organisation says this is to make a clear distinction between authorised cabs and private cars.

A council spokesman said: "The council's approved policy is to allow only official livery on taxis, but following requests from drivers, the council has agreed to permit one flag.

"It will also re-consult drivers and other parties on whether the policy should be changed once the World Cup is over."

The council had already told taxi drivers they could wear England shirts and support their country in that way instead.

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Ladyman moves on to take up retirement role

THE former Labour MP for South Thanet is to quit isle life, ***writes Tom Betts***.

Dr Stephen Ladyman, pictured, is taking up a position with a care provider called Retirement Security Ltd, which builds private care accommodation for the elderly.

Having lost his seat to Conservative MP Laura Sandys at the election, he will be moving to the Stratford-upon-Avon area to take up his new job.

He has put his Chilton Farmhouse home near Pegwell on the market.

Dr Ladyman's wife Janet worked as his secretary when he was constituency MP.

He said: "This will be a real wrench for us as we love the area and our house, but there is no alternative as I have to work and the offer is too good to turn down both personally and as an opportunity to continue to do something I believe in and which makes a positive contribution to society."

Dr Ladyman was the MP for South Thanet for 13 years, coming to office in 1997 when Tony Blair and New Labour swept to power after 18 years of Conservative government.

He defeated disgraced Tory Jonathan Aitken to take the seat and was installed as a junior health minister at the Department for Health from 2003 to 2005, after which he was appointed Minister of State for Transport.

The Liverpool FC fan and keen biker appeared on TV's Top Gear when he was transport minister, in the Star in a Reasonably Priced Car section of the show.

Now Dr Ladyman will become chief executive of Retirement Security, which he describes as the "country's leading supplier of this type of accommodation for purchase".

The company's founder and chairman, Robert Bessell, is due to retire soon, so Dr Ladyman will replace him.

Compensation claim for wife's hospital death

A WIDOWER whose wife died when a hospital's treatment of her fell woefully below what would be expected is taking legal action.

Donna Maben died from septicaemia at the William Harvey Hospital near her home in Ashford.

An inquest was highly critical of her treatment and care, and now husband Ian has instructed lawyers to fight for compensation. Solicitor Sarah Harman said she cannot talk about the case, but confirmed the litigation.

The 33-year-old mother of a young baby died in on May 11, 2009. A fortnight earlier, she had been admitted with abdominal pain and yet was discharged just three days later.

It then took two more weeks for her to collapse in agony, and finally have surgery on a twisted bowl that had gone gangrenous, which by then was too late for her.

The coroner was horrified at the circumstances. Rachel Redman said delays in operating and confusion over her treatment led to her death and wrote to Stuart Bain, chief executive of East Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust.

When the damning verdict was announced, Steven Pompeus, of East Kent Hospitals NHS Trust, said: "The trust would like to take this opportunity to apologise unreservedly for Donna's death.

"The trust accepts the verdict of the coroner and would like to reassure the public that changes have already been implemented to ensure the same outcome does not happen again."

Spending cuts derail hope of Crossrail link

BUDGET cuts at the Department for Transport could hamper the chances of the £16 billion Crossrail project being extended into Kent, ***writes Steve Knight.***

Last week transport minister Theresa Villiers warned she was looking for "value for money" in the scheme, prompting fears that several proposed stations may be scrapped.

Current plans for the new 74-mile network see it running from Maidenhead in Berkshire to Abbey Wood in London, and Shenfield in Essex, with stops throughout the capital including at Heathrow.

Kent County Council and former Labour MP for Dartford Howard Stoate were hopeful the project could also be extended into the north of the county, but this now appears less likely given that stations included in the original plan – including Maidenhead and Abbey Wood – are now under threat amid reports of the Government seeking a £5bn saving.

Despite the proposed cuts, Dr Stoate's Tory successor Gareth Johnson said he was not giving up on the dream just yet.

He said: "I would deeply love to see Crossrail extended right to Ebbsfleet, but it's going to come down to costings quite frankly because we've got to sort out the financial deficit.

"There are lots of negotiations going on at the moment and the finer details of the operation are still being worked on.

OFF TRACK: KCC's hopes to link Ebbsfleet with Crossrail may be shelved by Whitehall cuts

"I'd be surprised if there was an announcement soon that Crossrail will be extended into north Kent, but we hope it's still a medium-term goal and it's something we will continue to pursue."

Crossrail is the UK's biggest transport project since the Channel Tunnel, with the first trains due to run on the line by 2017.

The scheme is included in KCC's "growth without gridlock" transport strategy, which states the authority is "keen to see the route extended to Gravesend with good interchange at Ebbsfleet International".

However, Cllr Nick Chard – cabinet member for environment, highways and waste – declined to comment on speculation about the project.

Former transport secretary Geoff Hoon raised the possibility of Crossrail reaching Kent when he accepted an invitation from Dr Stoate to visit Dartford in March last year.

He said at the time: "Howard has pressed me hard on the question of Crossrail and the extension to Ebbsfleet. We have preserved the route and made it a possibility, and I'm certainly not ruling it out."

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Ghana child scavengers risk their lives on electronics dump

No explanation for illegal export of waste computers

By **STEVE KNIGHT**
steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

LAWYERS have been handed the results of an Environment Agency probe into the illegal dumping of electronic waste in Ghana.

The investigation was in response to a series of BBC documentaries on the problem, which revealed that computers bearing the Kent County Council logo had been discovered alongside other toxic rubbish at a tip in the nation's capital of Accra.

However, the authority says it still does not know how the equipment ended up 3,000 miles away, despite being made aware of the situation almost two years ago.

Deputy leader Cllr Alex King said at the time that the council was "urgently seeking additional information to identify serial numbers", but it now appears it failed to gain the information required.

A spokesman said: "Kent County Council is committed to making sure that when computers are no longer needed, those machines are passed on or disposed of in a responsible way.

"This is why contractors that we pass computers to have a duty to handle the computers with care and responsibility.

"Where we have relevant details about cases of computers being dumped, we will take the matter up with the contractor. In this situation – where the relevant details have not been passed on – we remind all of our contractors of their obligations."

The BBC reports revealed that young scavengers are putting their lives at risk by rooting through the Accra tip.

The children dissect the dumped computers for any reusable parts they may find and sell them on.

However, soil and water samples taken at the dump revealed there were high concentrations of leads, phthalates or plastic softeners, and dioxins known to cause cancer.

Other computers found had logos connecting them with Southampton County Council, Salford University, Richmond-upon-Thames College, and others.

The Environment Agency said it had set up a National Environmental Crime Team to proactively tackle serious organised waste crime, including illegal exports.

A spokesman said: "It is always illegal to export waste from the UK to be dumped overseas.

"To help stop electrical waste being illegally sent abroad our team conducts site inspections and port checks, and last year its intelligence work led to 18 arrests.

"The team is working on a number of investigations into illegal waste exports.

"One investigation into electronic waste exported to Ghana has been completed, and the team's findings are now with lawyers for their consideration."

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www.kentnews.co.uk

Healthy choice

A PUBLIC consultation to give greater choice of which GP practice to register with has been launched by NHS Eastern and Coastal Kent.

The survey, which can be picked up from your GP surgery or completed online, asks various questions including whether you would want the choice of a practice near your work, or if you would like to choose a different practice close to your home that offers more services and longer opening hours.

NHS Eastern and Coastal Kent's assistant director of citizen engagement Sara Warner said: "At the moment, people have to choose a GP practice that's close to them and make sure they live within its catchment area. But the Government is looking at options to change this, so people can choose a GP practice that best suits their needs."

Complete the survey at www.easternandcoastalkent.nhs.uk/get-involved/consultations-and-surveys, or pick up a form from your GP.

Replacement MEP takes his new seat

KENT'S new Green Party MEP took up his position in Brussels this week.

Keith Taylor replaced the party's leader Caroline Lucas after she was elected MP for Brighton at the General Election.

Under the European Parliament rules Mr Taylor – the Green Party's next candidate on its European List for the South East region – took her seat. A former businessman from Sussex, Mr Taylor was a Brighton councillor for 11 years.

He will sit on the Committee on Transport and Tourism, the Committee on International Trade and the Committee on Petitions. He will also become a full member of the Parliamentary delegation to Afghanistan, and a substitute member of the Iran and Palestine delegations.

DARTFORD and Crayford are to benefit from an £8.4 million investment to improve the Dartford Creek Barrier.

The second phase of works is now under way, helping ensure flood protection for more than 130 homes and properties.

Works will include the replacement of massive lifting chains as well as renewing other major pieces of equipment.

The Dartford Creek Barrier is part of the Thames Estuary flood defences that includes the Thames Barrier. Built in 1981, it consists of two large steel gates, weighing more than 150 tonnes each.

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Concerns the England team will drive fans to drink

Campaign will tackle World Cup boozing

By **MARIJKE COX**
marijke.cox@kosmedia.co.uk

WORLD Cup fever has pushed authorities to launch a campaign highlighting the dangers of drink and drug driving.

Police and councils fear celebrations or commiserations during the much-anticipated tournament could mean more people getting behind the wheel after a few drinks – or even just one.

And with summer threatening to make an appearance, road-safety chiefs are concerned the sun mixed with football fever will lead to more social events and the temptation to drink or take drugs before driving.

Although campaigns of this kind are not unusual, the message this time is to steer clear of alcohol altogether if out socialising.

The drink-drive limit is 80mg of alcohol per 100ml of blood, but authorities are stressing to motorists that no amount of booze is safe.

Road chiefs state that just one drink can slow a driver's reaction time.

Kent Police, Medway Council and Kent Highway Services have teamed up to get the message across, with a crackdown on drivers who may be under the influence.

Roads Policing Unit Inspector Paul Sellwood said the police take a zero tolerance approach to drink and drug driving.

"Summer is one of the busiest times for us," he said.

"This is because people socialise more often and for longer during the warm, lighter evenings.

Disqualification

"Drivers prosecuted for drink-driving will get a disqualification, criminal record, up to £5,000 fine or a possible prison sentence.

"But the consequence of a serious collision could be far worse, such as the death of a loved one."

In June, 2009, 250 people were arrested in Kent for driving while under the influence of alcohol.

Across the UK, 73 people are killed every month by drink and drug drivers, with the proportion of drink-related road deaths standing at one in six.

And Steve Horton, from Kent Highway Services, said most drink-drive crashes happen in the summer months.

"With this year's football tournament presenting many additional opportunities for social drinking, the temptation for drivers to drink could be greater," he said.

"In support of the Kent Police activity, we are launching our education campaign on June 11 to coincide with the start of the World Cup.

"We aim to remind drivers that penalties don't just come in football matches.

"If you're drinking, substitute the car for an alternative form of transport, like a taxi or bus."

Cllr Phil Filmer, from Medway Council, said he was concerned about the impact the World Cup would have on the number of people drink-driving.

"While we all wish to support our teams, follow their progress and celebrate their success, drivers must remember that alcohol and drugs can still be in your body the next day," he said.

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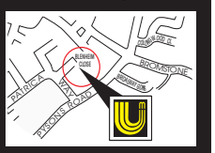

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Wrestling legend thinks Desmond's a knockout

LEGENDARY wrestling star Ric Flair has tipped a Kent-born colleague to reach the very top of his profession, ***writes Steve Knight***.

The former 16-time world champion says ex-Maidstone schoolboy Steven Haworth – who performs under the name Desmond Wolfe – has all the tools required to make a name for himself in the industry.

Both men currently star in the Total Nonstop Action (TNA) promotion, which is returning to the UK next January for its third tour of the country.

Speaking to KOS Media to promote the Maximum Impact shows, Flair – considered one of the finest wrestlers in history – heaped praise on his fellow grappler.

"Desmond has a lot of skill and has a tremendous future in the business," he said. "I certainly think he's a future world champion.

"It may not happen overnight, but I have no doubt it's something he's capable of fulfilling."

Flair – nicknamed The Nature Boy – also had kind words for Sevenoaks grappler Douglas Williams, who is under contract with TNA as the promotion's X-Division champion.

He said: "Doug is a tremendously skilled guy as well. He's definitely a gifted athlete."

Having wrestled at the highest level since the mid-1970s, Flair stands alongside Hulk Hogan and The Rock as one of the most famous wrestlers to have ever lived.

Despite being told he would never perform again after breaking his back in a 1975 plane crash, Flair went on to headline events around the world – selling out Wembley Stadium and Madison Square Garden in the process.

He joined TNA in January after seven years with World Wrestling Entertainment (WWE), but at the age of 61 he has no plans to call it a day.

"There will be a time when I hang my boots up, but it's not now," he said. "I feel great, thank God I'm still healthy and I feel like I'm still only 13. I probably have too much energy for my own good."

Picture: PROFESSIONAL IMAGES

WRESTLING SUCCESS: Long-standing star Ric Flair is looking for big things from Doug Williams (far left) and Desmond Wolfe

The Maximum Impact tour includes dates in Glasgow, Manchester and at Wembley Arena, and takes place from January 27-29 next year. Tickets went on sale on Friday, June 4.

"The UK fans are some of the greatest in the world to perform in front of," said Flair. "I've had fun whenever I've come over here because the crowds are always big and the arenas are packed.

"They don't get to see us as much as they do in America, so they're always very loud and appreciative of what we do."

PC facing time wasting charge

A POLICE officer has been charged with wasting police time.

The charges against Frances Croucher, 27, of Maidstone, relate to an investigation into a report of an assault in Swanley in January.

Croucher, currently suspended from duty, was released on bail last week to appear before magistrates in Sevenoaks on June 28.

Body in sea is still a mystery

FURTHER tests are to be carried out on the remains of a man found in the sea, after a post-mortem proved inconclusive.

The body was pulled from the water off Whitstable on Thursday, May 27, and a post-mortem was carried out on Tuesday.

Police say further analysis will now take place to help determine the cause of death.

The identity of the 6ft man is still unknown, and police inquiries continue.

The body was seen by a passing ship near the sandflats about four miles offshore, and lifeboat crews retrieved the remains.

Cheap booze poll

MORE than half of people don't believe there should there be a minimum price for supermarket alcohol, according to a kentnews.co.uk online poll.

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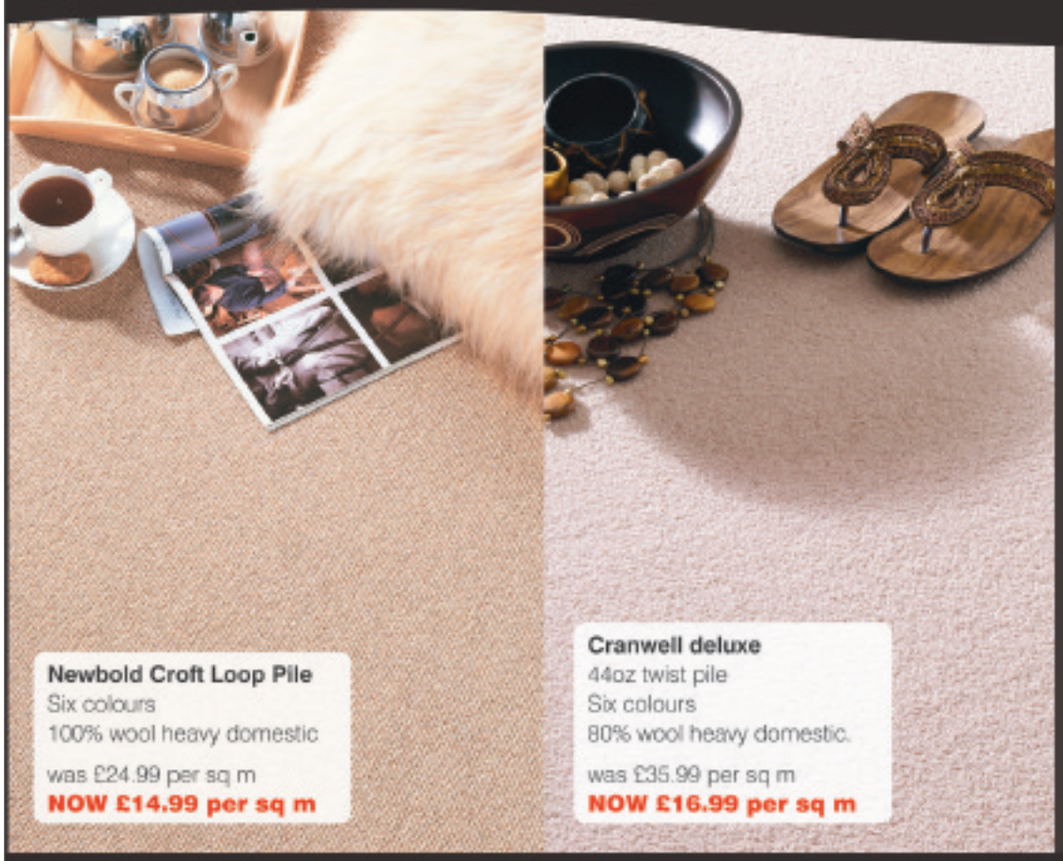

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Castle finally giving

By JANE CONNOLLY
jane.connolly@kosmedia.co.uk

MORE than 600 years after the first residence was built, Scotney Castle is only just starting to reveal its secrets.

Set in stunning countryside at Lamberhurst, the National Trust property has long been popular with visitors for its beautiful gardens, imposing 'new' house and ruined 14th century castle in the grounds. But since the death in 2006 of the last owner, Betty Hussey, the Trust has embarked on a journey of discovery tyat has produced some remarkable results.

As Mrs Hussey and her late husband, Christopher, had no children, it was their wish that the National Trust should take care of Scotney Castle, on the proviso that Betty was allowed to live there for the rest of her life. Since Mrs Hussey's personal effects came into the possession of the Trust, staff and volunteers have made some truly startling discoveries. Visitor services and enterprise manager, Joe Lloyd, explained why one gem has even interested the scientific community.

"In the attic we found a box of pressed flowers, which have been taken away to Kew Gardens to be looked at, and some of the species they found are as yet unknown to science," he said. "It dates back to Edward Hussey III, who built the new house in 1837 and it was the time of the Grand Tour, when people were going abroad for years and collecting these things. Some of the specimens we have are from South Africa and finding those things was quite exciting."

BEAUTIFUL: The Husseys' wedding, left, Betty's dress is one of the discoveries currently on display at the castle, which also has stunning grounds for its visitors to explore

With attics, drawers and cupboards full of artefacts, the lives of the Hussey family are steadily emerging into the light and some fascinating stories have been uncovered.

One of the most emotive discoveries was Betty Hussey's wedding dress, which has provided the inspiration for Scotney Castle's latest exhibition. To commemorate Betty and Christopher's lavish wedding in 1936, visitors can now see the dress on display and there is even a replica of the couple's wedding cake.

"We found the old telegrams and letters, along with a list of the gifts people gave, so we now have labels on those gifts," Mr Lloyd said. "The dining room is laid out as if for a wedding breakfast. This is a bit of artistic licence, as they had the reception at Admiralty House in London, but they would have come back here.

"We had a replica of the cake made – it is a fountain with dolphins and we had to get a film prop maker to do it. They did such a good job, considering they just had one little picture to work from."

The wedding guests included Wallis Simpson, the American divorcee for whom King Edward VIII abdicated his throne, and the relics include a candid photo of the socialite at the event.

"Betty was Wallis' niece and by that time, people here knew about the affair, so it was quite a coup to have her here."

The recreation of the Husseys' wedding day should prove inspirational for couples who would like to marry at Scotney Castle. With its romantic gardens and atmospheric ruins of the original castle and moat below the new house, Mr Lloyd believes it will make the perfect setting for a ceremony.

"We are hoping to licence the archway of the old castle for outdoor weddings," he said. "Christopher proposed to Betty in the garden."

Over the last three or four years, Scotney Castle has been developed from a garden-only attraction to a highly popular destination and has roughly doubled its visitor numbers in that time. With a new tearoom and shop, extra car parking and a new room due to open this year, the property has undergone quite a transformation. Along with the exciting new discoveries, the timeless features that have long captivated visitors can still be enjoyed.

Visitors might even spot a ghost.

"There was an incident when a taxman came knocking and was thrown into the moat and drowned," Mr Lloyd said. "There is a story

up its secrets

GUEST: Margaret Thatcher

that says you can still see his wet footprints sometimes, going up to the door for his money."

Strolling around the grounds, visitors will come across a genuine Henry Moore sculpture which they can approach and touch. Following Christopher's death in 1970, the artist gave the piece to the estate in memory of his friend.

He is not the only well-known figure with connections to Scotney Castle.

"Margaret Thatcher had an apartment here while she was in office because she was friends with Betty," Mr Lloyd said. "The Secret Service would camp in the woods while she was here."

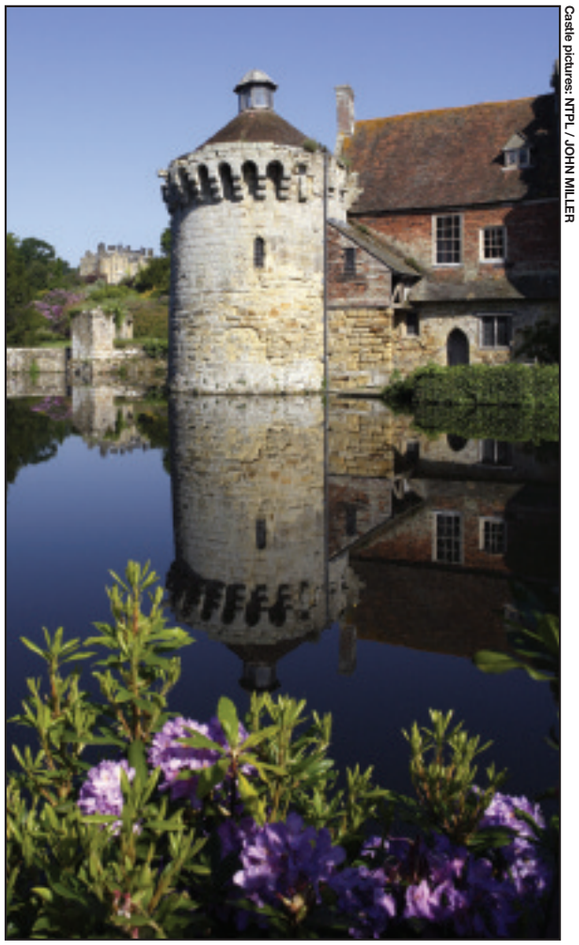
Although Christopher Hussey was the editor of Country Life magazine for many years, the couple are not widely known by the modern generation. Yet the remarkable discoveries being made at Scotney Castle are bringing the property's history to life and creating a new atmosphere that is sure to spark curiosity.

"With places that have a famous person linked to them – such as Chartwell, Winston Churchill's home – the story is there," Mr Lloyd said. "But for places like Scotney, we are discovering the stories now. There are so many stories to tell and we are only talking about recent history, without going back to the 14th century when the old castle was built.

"We have left the house as it was, almost as if Betty had just popped out to the shops."

• ***Scotney Castle is open Wednesdays to Sundays, until October 31 and estate walks are open all year. Opening times for the house, old castle and garden vary, so see www.nationaltrust.org.uk or call 01892 893820 for details.***

TREASURE TROVE: Scotney Castle has finally started to give up its many secrets to researchers from the National Trust, which has been entrusted with the property to ensure its long-term future



Castle pictures: NTPL / JOHN MILLER

In the family

• The first Scotney Castle was built by Roger Ashburnham in 1378-80. Only one of the original four towers remains.

• The castle was home to the Catholic Darell family for 350 years, and in the early 17th century they hid Jesuit Father Blount in the priest hole, which can still be seen today.

• When family arguments led to legal action, the Darells were forced to sell Scotney. In 1778 it was purchased by Edward Hussey, who put the fragmented Darell estate back together. He died in 1816 and his son outlived him by just a year. Convinced the castle's plumbing was to blame, his widow took their son, Edward Hussey III, away to St Leonard's.

• The boy grew up with a keen interest in architecture and landscape gardening, which he put to use when he returned to Scotney in 1835, determined to build a new house there. He commissioned Anthony Salvin to design the house, using sandstone from the slope below, and turned to William Sawrey Gilpin to help with the picturesque planting.

• His grandson Christopher – an influential architecture writer – inherited Scotney in 1952 and was keen to ensure the garden's future. He decided to leave the estate to the National Trust on his death and work to renew the garden continues.

Advertisement feature

Wonder cure

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By KATIE HOLDEN

DAMP is a creeping menace that affects thousands of homes across South East.

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MEPs play down Con-Lib impact

EURO MPs say the formation of the Con-Lib coalition will have little impact on the relationship between the two parties in Brussels.

Representatives of Kent say that despite the two parties sitting in different groups in the European Parliament, they have always had to work with one another and that will not change despite the new-look UK government.

Tory South East MEP Richard Ashworth, who was born in Folkestone and went to school in Canterbury, said: "We already do politics by consensus rather than the adversarial nature of Westminster.

"In Europe we're elected by proportional representation, therefore working with other parties and making deals and trades with them is part of the normal daily life of an MEP.

"The Liberals in Europe are very much a halfway house between us and Labour, but the definitions of each of the parties are much more blurred here than they are in the UK.

"There are some Dutch Liberals who are more right-wing than any UK Tories are, while there are others who are more to the left than any Labour members.

"The coalition will have a small impact on the way we all interact.

There may be areas going forward where we may have to liaise more closely with the Liberals than we already do, but I'm not expecting anything huge to come up."

As chairman of the Economic and Monetary Affairs Committee – arguably the most powerful body in the European Parliament – fellow South East MEP, the Lib Dem Sharon Bowles, says she already has a healthy relationship with her Conservative colleagues.

She added: "Even before the coalition talks began the Tories approached me and raised questions about the best way to approach things, because my committee is at the absolute heart of everything to do with the economic crisis and the tsunami of legislation that is coming along."

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WW2 evacuees mark welcome in the hillside

INTO THE UNKNOWN: Evacuees set off for a new life 70 years ago

By MARIJKE COX
marijke.cox@kosmedia.co.uk

FORMER wartime children who were evacuated from devastated coastal towns are reuniting 70 years later to pay tribute to the Welsh families who took them in as their own.

A special thanksgiving service and ceremony is being held in Dover, where on June 2, 1940, 3,000 children were marched to the train station to be sent to south Wales as the threat of German invasion drew nearer.

One of the youngsters was 12-year-old John Lockyer, now living in Hove, who was taken in by a family in the small town of Blaenavon.

"The people I was billeted to had only just heard of the death of their son in Dunkirk and, regardless of their grief, they did all they could for me," he said.

"They taught me what love was about – this is what we're celebrating.

"This service is to salute those Welsh people and all they did for us."

Now aged 82, Mr Lockyer and others from Seventy Years On, a group of people celebrating the kindness of those people during the war, decided to organise a reunion.

Former evacuees from across the country are expected to make the journey to Dover in tribute of the families who took in evacuees.

Traumatic

Although Mr Lockyer said there were some children who were not treated so well by their billeted families, most were lucky.

"People in Blaenavon were mostly miners living in two-up two-down houses," he said.

"They didn't have much, but they gave us all they could.

"I was taken on by the family as if I was their own. Their eldest daughter accepted me as her little brother.

"The family soon found out the son they had been told was dead was still alive and he moved back in with us all."

Mr Lockyer, however, said it was difficult in the east Kent coastal towns during World War Two, with many witnessing the horrors of battle.

"There were so many people evacuated from these areas – it was a very traumatic time," he said.

"Once the evacuation of Dunkirk happened, Dover came under fire. You could hear the shells and bombs battering the roofs."

To make the trauma worse, shortly after moving to Wales, Mr Lockyer was left devastated when he was told his nine-year-old sister had been killed in a car accident.

"The family I was with really helped me get through it," he added.

Mr Lockyer said the ceremony, which is being held on Sunday, June 6, with a thanksgiving service at St Mary's Church in Dover followed by a reunion reception, salutes all the Welsh families who looked after the evacuee children.

"For me, they helped shape my life," he said.

"We're going to have some Welsh flags on display during the service to show our thanks."

A TEENAGER has been arrested in Maidstone on suspicion of murder.

The 18-year-old girl, of no fixed address, was caught in the county town by officers from Essex Police in connection with the death of Daniel Thomas.

Mr Thomas, 59, was found dead with multiple stab wounds at a flat in Darnley Road, Grays, at 4.30pm on Sunday, May 16.

A spokesman for Essex Police said detectives are "unclear" if the injuries were self-inflicted or caused by another person.

The teenager was arrested on May 27. She has been released on bail until Thursday, July 15, while police continue their investigation.

AN ARTIST is offering Herne Bay the chance to swap precious objects and show off the generosity of the town.

Kate Murdoch's work is a cabinet of 100 curiosities which she has been taking through the South East, asking people to take an object and swap it with something beautiful of their own.

She started off the 10x10 project with 100 of her own precious items and has found people left some beautiful things, but others have stolen items or left worthless objects.

Mrs Murdoch said: "It is interesting because it is a comment on humanity. The majority of people have left meaningful things, but others didn't."

On Saturday there will be an exchange day at Herne Bay Museum.

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SAFETY: James Brokenshire, right, meets with officers from Gravesend police

Community at the heart of policing as minister learns about drug abuse

CRIME reduction minister James Brokenshire says Kent Police are setting a good example in tackling drug and alcohol abuse, ***writes Steve Knight***.

In his first official visit since landing the Home Office job, Mr Brokenshire – also the Tory MP for Old Bexley and Sidcup – met with officers in Gravesend to see how the force is approaching the problem.

He also spoke to drug workers at the town's Horizon project, which provides support for addicts to help them find employment and turn their backs on crime.

Mr Brokenshire said: "This was my first visit as a minister and it was very much a fact-finding mission for me.

"The new government is committed to tackling drug misuse and reducing the damage it can cause to our communities. We want to target both prolific drug users and the unscrupulous people who bring drugs onto our streets.

Encouraging

"It is really encouraging to see how Kent Police are working so closely with housing teams, drugs workers and residents to address the issues that really matter to local people, and in doing so helping make the area a safer place to live.

"There's a real sense in Gravesend that a focus is being put on the community by the police, the council, housing groups and so on, and it showed me how we need to look closely at how such partnerships can be strengthened for better results and better communities."

Mr Brokenshire was first elected as the MP for Hornchurch, Essex, in 2005 but had to find a new seat after the electoral boundaries were redrawn.

After unsuccessfully seeking selection in the Kent constituencies of Gillingham and Rainham and Maidstone and the Weald, he was finally picked to contest the safe seat of Old Bexley and Sidcup – winning with a 34.9 per cent majority in last month's General Election.

Chief Insp Philip Painter said: "In north Kent we are continually working towards addressing drug misuse. Only recently we ran a huge operation which saw more than 50 people arrested and charged with drug offences, effectively breaking down the networks of drug users and suppliers across the region.

"Our neighbourhood teams work in our communities, together with the local councils and other partner agencies to address the concerns of people living there. We can and will deal with issues around drugs."

Air show celebrates heroes

By CHRIS MURPHY
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

IT MAY be the 70th anniversary of The Few, but it will involve The Many taking to the air over Biggin Hill to mark it with style.

This year, the air fair at one of Britain's most famous airfields takes place on June 26-27.

It will be a celebration of the bravery of the RAF pilots who tackled the Luftwaffe during the famed Battle of Britain, which started on July 10, 1940, and lasted for 82 days.

On September 1, a heavy raid on RAF Biggin Hill saw a direct hit on the operations room, killing 39 people. A temporary room was set up in the village and for a time only one squadron of Hurricanes was able to fly from the airfield.

The pluck and courage of The Few pilots, combined with the might of the Spitfire and Hurricane, decimated the waves of German planes.

Launching from airfields around Kent, the skilful pilots drove back the German onslaught.

Now, seven decades later, they are being remembered in one of the finest airshows in the country.

The daily flying display will replicate the 1940s scene with an airfield attack by a Messerschmitt 109 fighter and will be defended by Hurricanes and Spitfires.

FLIGHT OF FANCY: Displays by the Red Arrows and Spitfire pilots will take place at Biggin Hill this month

The RAF will be at the event, with the Red Arrows and freefall parachute team The Falcons both in action.

The Battle of Britain Memorial Flight will take pride of place in the viewing enclosures and will fly the famous Lancaster bomber each day.

Four of the fighters involved – two Spitfires and two Hurricanes – will take part in the Battle of Britain scenario as well as a unique tail chase display with the Spitfire and Typhoon.

Lovers of the modern warplane are also well catered for with the inclusion of an Alphajet of the French Air Force; a General Dynamics F-16 fighter of the Belgian Air Force; and Royal New Zealand Air Force Boeing 757 to remember the 127 Kiwi pilots who fought with the Allies with the loss of 14 in battle.

There will be plenty in the air with six continuous hours of seamless display flying on both days.

The chapel has been fitted with illuminated panels with the names of all those who paid the supreme sacrifice while serving at Biggin Hill.

There will also be a funfair. Tickets can be bought at www.bigginhillairfair.co.uk or by telephone on 01959 572277.

They cost £18 for adults in advance and £23 on the day, plus children under 15 get in free with a paying adult with a maximum of three per adult. On-site parking is also free.

There is a grandstand costing £16 in advance on top of the entry price, or £19 on the day plus entry, subject to availability.

Children from all over the world

Photographer tells of fascinating journey for new book

AN AWARD-winning photographer has produced an unusual book of pictures of children from almost every country in the world who are now living in Britain, including several in Kent, ***writes Chris Murphy.***

Caroline Irby produced A Child from Everywhere, saying it was the fruit of a year spent travelling around the UK.

She said: "I eventually found children from 185 of the world's 192 countries, all of whom appear in this book.

"Three of the children who took part now live in Kent, children from Monaco, Uzbekistan and Sierra Leone.

"Collectively, they gave a fascinating and often humorous insight into the effects of globalisation.

"Even 10 years ago this project would have been impossible: the UK has long been a focus of immigration but never on this scale – never before have we experienced almost the whole world converging on these islands."

Expression

Tracking her down to another photographic assignment in deepest Peru, we asked Caroline what the idea was behind producing such an unusual book.

She said: "I've travelled a lot, and wherever I'm working I tend to tell the story through the children I meet. I feel they give the most sensitive, and maybe most accurate expression of what is happening in almost any given situation.

"I've listened to and photographed children in Sierra Leone and Haiti, Darfur and Kashmir… right now I'm in Peru, documenting the lives of children in a slum suburb of Lima for Unicef.

A LONG JOURNEY: (l-r) Photographer Caroline Irby interviewed, among others, Shaquille from Bexley via Sierra Leone, Shereene from Orpington via Uzbekistan, and Elliott from Beckenham via Monaco, while producing her new book, Children From Everywhere

"But you don't have to travel far to find a good story – or a child's perspective on it.

"I wanted the spread of children taking part in this project to broadly reflect the diaspora of immigrants across the UK: whilst many have settled around the capital and in major cities across the country, it is also possible to find a family from Chile living in a Scottish archipelago, or a boy from São Tomé [an African island] in a Midlands market town.

"And so I travelled from the Orkney Isles to the Isle of Wight and from Belfast to Cornwall – taking in Kent along the way – in my search for these children from everywhere.

"Of the estimated 565,000 migrants who arrive in the UK each year, 26,000 of them are children. The numbers are often analysed in the media, but for every number there's a story."

So what of the children now in Kent?

Caroline said: "I found these three children, who live in Kent, through the Commonwealth Secretariat for the one from Sierra Leone, BBC World Service for the Uzbek child, and the Embassy of Monaco."

And what do the youngsters themselves make of their new-found fame?

Shaquille, 11, from Sierra Leone, now living in Bexley, said: "I went back a few months ago. There wasn't much electricity. People carry baskets of water on their head and play football on hard sand and rocks, in slippers.

"Living there would be quite crazy. For me, coming from England, not used to seeing all of this – it would take a while to get used to it."

Shereene, eight, from Uzbekistan and now Orpington, said: "My mum and dad work for the BBC. I'd like to be an author or a poetess like JK Rowling. This is a poem I wrote, Hopping Spring. I wrote it in wintertime because I was excited about spring.

Hopping spring, hopping spring
Let all the bunnies bounce
The trees wailing like the sun
And the postman is mailing all the letters
Let's hop and hop like a rabbit
Let's plant some pots in the teapot
Let's enjoy the breeze as it goes past the pots as we eat jelly tots

"I wrote it in wintertime because I was excited about spring, imagining how it would be like."

And with the help of mum Laurence, Elliott, three, from Monaco, and now Beckenham, said: "It's a tiny country – they say it's the size of Hyde Park. I think there's only about 7,000 nationals so not many passport holders.

"When I go through immigration I often get, 'Ooh I've never seen one of those before, let's have a look at your passport.'"

Caroline laughed: "Elliott had a lot to say when I took his pictures – mostly telling me I was doing it wrong."

• ***A Child from Everywhere is published by Black Dog.***

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LETTERS

KOS Media welcomes your comments and letters for publication. Please send correspondence to: Letters to the Editor, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SS. Alternatively fax them to: 01303 817001, or email them to editorial@kosmedia.co.uk. Please include your name and address, although these will be withheld in exceptional circumstances. Please also include a daytime telephone number for verification (this will not be published). We reserve the right to edit letters.

LETTER OF THE WEEK

Commissioner is just the job

ANNE Barnes, chairwoman of the Kent Police Authority, is quite wrong when she claims the Government's proposals for elected police commissioners are driven "purely by dogma".

On the contrary, this policy is evidence-driven – and part of the copious evidence is my own experience of this feeble organisation.

The KPA is hopeless at effective public consultation.

Just like Kent County Council, Thanet District Council and Kent Police themselves (the so-called 'community safety partners') they seem to think that a lot of glossy leaflets, press photo-opportunities and time-wasting meetings constitute effective public engagement.

It is hopeless at holding the police to account at virtually every level: policing of the Kingsnorth demonstrations; the their poor record in keeping to Freedom of Information legislation; the rudeness of senior officers to members of the public; the persistent misrepresentation by the police of crime statistics; or the previous chief constable's expensive travel to work arrangements.

Moreover, we should not get too excited by their cumbersome process of selecting a new chief constable and Mrs Barnes' expressions of confidence in the man they eventually chose, Mr Ian Learmonth.

A quick check of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Constabulary's assessments of his current force, Norfolk, shows that it performs exactly as Kent Police have performed in every category that is assessed. So he is no better and no worse than the last chap.

I wish Mr Learmonth well in his new post, but it would make his task easier if he were subject to effective, constructive challenge from a high-powered elected commissioner rather than a bunch of well-meaning retired brigadiers, county councillors and magistrates.

Paul Twyman, Minnis Bay

OPINION: ALTERING THE MINDSET

Medical anthropology student **DAVE KING** argues that psychedelic drugs have medical benefits and deserve more than the stigma they are currently attracting

LAST month I flew to California for a medical conference, hosted by the Multidisciplinary Association for Psychedelic Studies (Maps).

The event saw around 1,200 participants from 18 countries gather for more than 90 presentations.

Substantial media coverage contributed to a growing awareness that psychedelic drugs deserve more than the stigma they currently attract.

The conference revealed a wealth of government-approved scientific studies showing psychedelic drugs such as psilocybin (magic mushrooms) and LSD to be extremely beneficial in psychotherapeutic settings. This is perhaps not so surprising – these drugs were utilised within psychotherapy on a huge scale before they escaped from the laboratory to the cultural revolution of the 60s.

It is also common knowledge that other 'illicit' drugs have medicinal value; heroin is used as a painkiller under the name 'diamorphine', methamphetamine is given to children with ADHD, and ketamine is used as an alternative anaesthetic when blood pressure must be kept stable.

So, why is this big news? The more that we see psychedelics through a scientific lens the more one must start to accept these substances are not quite what we have been led to believe. If one stops thinking of psychedelic drugs as simply 'illicit', and instead thinks of them as 'medicinal', one must naturally begin to look at the results of medical trials and scientific examinations.

These trials do not really support the prevalent image of psychedelics as valueless generators of delusion, or as simple 'madness-makers'.

As for the physiological dangers, the classical psychedelics do not appear to cause any damage to the human body. They are not toxic to any vital physiological or metabolic process and so one cannot overdose on them. They are also not addictive; their use is not accompanied by either cravings or withdrawal symptoms on cessation of use.

Indeed, one of their most useful tendencies in psychotherapy is to diminish the addictive hold of commonly-abused drugs such as heroin and alcohol.

Many researchers have found psychedelics such as ayahuasca and ibogaine to be of invaluable assistance to psychotherapeutic processes, including the treatment of depression, OCD and anxiety.

What about 'bad trips'? LSD is currently being used in Switzerland to alleviate anxiety in patients with terminal illness.

I asked Dr Peter Gasser, the researcher behind this study, whether the anxiety had ever led to any negative reactions under LSD. He replied that yes, some patients had experienced difficult trips, but that they all came back without much hesitation to take part in a second session.

Sometimes the difficult trips are ultimately the most valuable, even if they aren't the most fun.

As with all things, I believe the best policy should be based on assistance, education and honesty. Our schools should certainly not be encouraging use of psychedelic drugs, but neither should they be propagating partial truths (which are no truths at all).

There will be people who are going to choose to use these drugs, outside of medical settings, and the best way to minimise negative repercussions is to be honest and open about their effects.

Rather than ignoring the fact that many young people will experiment with drugs during their lives we should perhaps be teaching teenagers how to help somebody through a difficult psychedelic experience.

A trip can be an extraordinarily powerful, life-changing experience – and psychedelics are not toys to be played with – but people will play with them and we must offer honest, holistic and practical education if we are to expect young people to make their decisions wisely.

The University of Kent has a Psychedelics Society www.ukcpsychedelics.co.uk) that offers advice, information, and weekly open-lectures by a diverse selection of experts.

I think it is important that we all try to take a step back from presupposition, misinformation and stigma and begin to look at these drugs in a new context.

• ***Dave King is a medical anthropology student at the University of Kent with a research interest in psychedelics.***

KOS media COMMENT

Don't be stuck in jail for our victory

AFTER a month of election rivalry, unusual politics and more official talk of spending cuts, the World Cup could not come at a better time.

And after battling through one of the worst recessions in history since football fever last swept the nation in 2006, a welcome break is what we all need.

With less than a week to go, the excitement is bubbling over – even for some who never watch the sport – as we all put our hands together and hope 2010 could be the year for England.

The team has landed in South Africa, red and white flags adorn cars and windows, and World Cup wall charts have been put up in homes across the country.

No doubt the next four weeks will be full of highs, lows, and, hopefully not too many tears, along with singing, dancing and lots of beer. Which is where the police come in with their stark warning about drink and drug driving.

Although it seems heavy when most people are gearing up for one of the world's most exciting sporting events, it would be a much worse fate to be locked in a cell unable to celebrate with your friends. Or just imagine if you miss the moment England actually manage to win on penalties.

As much as the next month spells fun, alcohol causes lots of us to do dangerous things – so leave the car at home.

He'll soon look as old as the others

A YOUNG, fresh-faced David Cameron sits in an Ashford village hall hoping to break into the world of politics.

Turned down at the first hurdle, yet years later there he stands all grown up outside Downing Street with the weight of the country on his shoulders – the youngest Prime Minister in almost 200 years.

But remember Mr Cameron, age is just a number, give it time – and untold stress – and you'll soon be looking as old as the rest of them.

Police changes need thought

I wish to point out that the comments attributed to me (KoS, May 30) from the Association of Police Authorities' (APA) letter to The Observer newspaper, were in my capacity as deputy chair of the APA. The views expressed in that letter were APA views.

The Kent Police Authority has not yet formed a collective view about directly elected commissioners, and in any event there are legal restrictions that may well prevent individual police authorities campaigning on this issue.

I believe passionately in our current system of police governance. It has served this country and local communities well for 15 years now.

Any changes to it must, and should, be properly thought through. The British model of policing is the envy of the world and that has been by design not accident.

Ann Barnes, Chairwoman, Kent Police Authority

Crowd should have been told

The well publicised return of the Little Ships from Dunkirk to Ramsgate drew many visitors to Ramsgate harbour on Bank Holiday Monday, and it was with an increasing sense of outrage that those of us who had been sitting for several hours on the harbour wall during the entire afternoon found out – around 4.30pm – the event had been cancelled early that morning.

No news was posted up at the entrance to the harbour for visitors to be aware of that.

I ended up phoning Dunkirk, only to be told the cancellation decision had been taken at 6am and communicated to Ramsgate.

If this is how Thanet treats its visitors it is unlikely to gain any credibility for its promotion of such events.

You can forget 'Dynamo Day' in future. People had travelled down from London and all over the South East, following information put out by local council websites and local news follow-up stories.

One elderly lady in a wheelchair had travelled by train, then her carer had pushed her all the way from Ramsgate station to the harbour (a very long walk) to see the Little Ships come in.

It is no good simply publicising events and leaving them to run themselves. The cancellation should have been properly announced.

I suppose – having attracted a higher than usual number of visitors – Thanet council did not want the financial advantages to be lost by announcing there would be nothing to see? Disgraceful.

G Thomas, by email

Boris showing his ignorance

Thousands of protestors fought for a few years to stop another airport in the estuary area, it was proved to be fatal for all the villages, a destruction for wildlife, impossibility of causing no sound damage, but most important of all pollution.

Are we not supposed to be protecting the ozone layer as much as we can for future races of mankind?

So why does Boris Johnson believe this ruling does not involve him. This is disgusting behaviour for someone who should be showing more thought and intellegence on such an important issue.

Shame on you, concentrate on the Olympic funding, you will ruin thousands of people's lives plus create health problems for many more, not to mention the damage to the environment.

C Russell, Ramsgate

Farm horrors for all to see

Animal Aid has released a shocking new factory farming film featuring grim scenes shot secretly in randomly-selected farms across the UK during the last three years.

Scenes include young pigs looking for sustenance in a trough filled with faeces, and a bin full of dead sheep and lambs.

These images support Animal Aid's argument that modern animal farming presents a significant threat to human health, as well as an intolerable burden upon the animals themselves.

The film is supported by a new booklet called Is Factory Farming Making You Sick?, which was produced with the assistance of globally-recognised expert Dr Michael Greger, the Humane Society international's director of public health and animal agriculture.

It describes 12 major diseases that start in factory farm settings, but may go on to harm and even kill people.

They include salmonellosis, campylobacter infection, BSE, bird flu and swine flu.

Swine flu has killed more than 18,000 people around the world, while in the UK alone it is estimated that salmonella and campylobacter are responsible for around 450,000 cases each year.

To order a free copy of Is Factory Farming Making You Sick? or to view the film, contact Animal Aid on 01732 364546 or visit www.animalaid.org.uk.

Kelly Slade, campaigns officer Animal Aid, Tonbridge

CONTINUED ON PAGE 24

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES AND DEATHS

Including family announcements in partnership with the Kent registration service

To register Births, Marriages and Deaths contact the Kent registration service on 0845 824 7400

For advertising announcement enquiries telephone Kent on Sunday on 01303 817150

BIRTHS

ATKINS

Billie Beatrix Victoria born on 19th May 2010 weighing 8lbs 1oz. Daughter to Liz and Phil in Maidstone

BURR

Chris and Nickey are pleased to announce the Birth of their Son Jack born on the 24th April 2010. A new Brother for Amelia

MAISEY

Carl and Gillian celebrate the birth of their daughter Alice Lana Maisey on 11th May 2010. Sister to Erin and Evelyn.

RUSDHARRY

Subodh and Ausha-Devi celebrate the birth of their daughter Manisha-Devi Anjani on 23rd April 2010, weighing 4lb 13oz. Sister to Pixie.

SCOTT/LEADER

Summer Rose born on 19th May 2010, weighing 9lbs 1oz. Daughter to Lindsey Scott and Ryan Leader of Maidstone

WELLER

Lisa and John of Gravesend celebrate the birth of their twins Amelia and Ryan on 10th May 2010.

DEATHS

FROST

Ian Bernard Frost on 22nd May 2010, aged 70. Dearly loved husband to June, Father to Mark and Julie, Grandfather to Natalie, Laura, Conor, Chelsea, James and Marcos. All funeral arrangements by Co-Op Funeral Care, Windmill Street,Gravesend 01474 365980.

MARRIOTT

Mary Alice Marriott passed away peacefully aged 98 years on 16th May 2010. Will be sadly missed by friends and family. Funeral service at Vinters Park Crematorium on 1st June 2010.

WARREN

Margaret Alice Warren of Folkestone passed away on the 27th May 2010. Sadly missed. Enquiries to Sterrys Funeral Directors.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 23

Lib Dems really ruling the roost

Having watched and listened to this new coalition government I have to say 'thanks, but no thanks' to David Cameron.

Nick Clegg must wonder just how he has done it, to run the country with so few seats.

Cameron has given in on far too many issues and it would seem that he has done that just to get into Number 10

Well he has done it and, I suppose, good luck to him, but it would seem that apart from trying to get us out of the debt that Labour accrued most of the other problems will remain

To me it seems that we have a Lib Dem government and that is surely not what I voted for or ever would.

RE Tucker, Sheerness

Brooke calling for new volunteers

This week is National Volunteers' Week (June 1-7) and I'm writing to appeal to your readers to volunteer for my favourite charity – the Brooke.

I run a local supporter group in west Kent and we urgently need more volunteers to help us with events and fundraising.

The west Kent group is always looking for fundraising ideas or help with fundraising.

At present we carry out street and racecourse collections and attend horse shows, school fairs and other such events at which we sell soft toys and other small items.

We also regularly hold piano recitals and give talks about the Brooke at local schools and societies.

The Brooke is the UK's leading charity dedicated to improving the lives of working horses, donkeys and mules in the poorest parts of the world.

It relies on volunteers from across the UK without whom the charity wouldn't be able to raise the vital funds needed to give essential care to ill and injured equines, and training to communities on how to properly care for their animals.

These animals provide an income for millions of poor families across the developing world and, if it wasn't for the Brooke, not only would hundreds of thousands of these animals go on suffering, but many owners would lose their livelihoods.

Last year the West Kent Supporters Groups raised £4,800. We would love to increase our fundraising over the next year, but we can only do this with the help of volunteers.

If you would like to get involved please contact me directly on 01892 531306 or louiseandmichael3@hotmail.co.uk, or contact the Brooke on 020 7653 5812 or community@thebrooke.org. For more information about the Brooke's work, readers can visit their website www.thebrooke.org.

I hope the people of west Kent will do us proud and celebrate Volunteers' Week by getting involved – the Brooke needs you.

Louise Brown, group leader, Brooke West Kent supporter group

Savings must not hit Crossrail plans

I note with some concern transport minister Theresa Villiers' statement on attempting to get "value for money" in relation to the Crossrail project.

I strongly support efficiency savings in public infrastructure projects, and the job of responsible ministers should be to deliver services that are of good quality at a reasonable cost.

Having said that a line needs to be drawn in the sand. I support the Mayor of London Boris Johnson's commitment to fight against any attempt to cut the Abbeywood branch of Crossrail. Any attempts by Ms Villiers to ensure value for money must not translate into the loss of this branch.

James Cleverly AM, London Assembly Member for Bexley and Bromley

Euro partners will build for eco future

The European Parliament is a place for the countries of Europe to work together on issues that affect us all, and no issue is a bigger threat to our common long-term security than climate change. This issue has no respect for borders and it can only be tackled if the world works together.

I was therefore delighted to vote with my colleagues to support plans to see new public buildings across Europe become nearly zero energy efficient by 2021, and greatly improve the efficiency of Europe's existing 190 million building stock.

It is estimated buildings are responsible for 40 per cent of energy consumption and for 35 per cent of the total greenhouse gas emissions in Europe. Promoting energy efficient buildings is the best way to cut this and to provide financial savings in the long term.

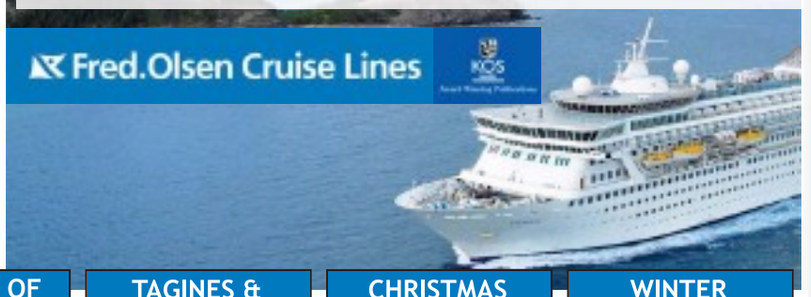
Energy efficient buildings not only protect the environment, but also offer a 30 per cent energy saving over some conventional buildings. These saving standards will cut energy bills for families and businesses in south east England and will help tackle fuel poverty at source.

Only one per cent of the UK's housing stock is currently considered to be energy efficient. We have a great opportunity ahead of us to make our communities greener and more prosperous, but we must act now.

I promised when I was elected to work to help protect the environment and this is just one example of how I am achieving this.

Catherine Bearder Lib Dem Euro MP for Kent

EXCLUSIVE READER OFFERS



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CLASSY attractive lady, 60's, seeks male of similar age for walks, talks, meals out, cinema, theatre and more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 334913** 📱

LADY young looking, mid 50's, attractive, likes gardening, walks, days out, socialising, seeks kind, caring male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 334721**

PETITE female, slim, attractive, blonde hair, green eyes, GSOH, romantic, likes sports, nights out, meals, seeks honest, genuine, N/S male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 334613** 📱 📷

ATTRACTIVE petite, 50yr old brunette, seeks male company and friendship, possibly romance, 45-55. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 334547** 📱

MARIA 48, likes country walks, trips, seeks caring male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379826**

DAWN 44, small outgoing blue eyed brunette, needing some male attention seeks male, who's not too tall for a casual, uncomplicated relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 334825** 📱

PAULA 39, brown hair, hazel eyes, vivacious, great personality, knows what she wants seeks adventurous man. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 334823** 📱

JENNY 31, gorgeous, outgoing party girl, blonde, blue eyed, great curves WLTM hunky male for some serious fun. Looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 334821** 📱

JUDY 56, lovely, creative artistic and just that bit different, loves sunshine, outdoors, looking for new possibilities with quirky, dark haired male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 334819** 📱

JACKIE 40's, stunning, slim, loves life and likes to look after herself, wants to live it to the full with the right male. It could be you. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 334803** 📱

BARBARA 48, slender fun loving divorcee, blonde hair, green eyes seeks slim athletic male to be her new love. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 334801** 📱

SUE 46, lovely green eyed blonde, knows there must be more to life than work seeks tall intelligent guy to show her how to relax and have fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 334799** 📱

KAY 37, beautiful, warm, friendly blonde, no ties, would love to get together with an attractive male who can sweep her off her feet. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 334797** 📱

RITA 50, likes walks, cinema, travel, music, seeks solvent, N/S male, 47-54 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 334467**

PETITE charming, bubbly brunette, likes most things, seeks genuine male, 50-58. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 332993** 📱

ATTRACTIVE slim single mum, 44, seeks similar tall male, 40-50, caring, loving and loyal, are you? **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 334393** 📱

RACHEL 5ft 7ins, blonde hair, blue eyes, sexy, voluptuous, likes animals, seaside, seeks older, kind, loving, generous male, 75 plus. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 334323**

CLARE petite, size 8-10, likes music, historic places, holidays, animals, meals out, walks, seaside, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 334101** 📱

KATHLEEN 42, likes keep fit, cycling, cooking, cinema, single mum, seeks genuine male for fun and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 334085** 📱

LADY 64, 5ft 6ins, slim, likes meals out, travel, seaside, music, films, seeks outgoing male, 63-67 for relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 334053** 📱

KAREN 5ft 1ins, brown hair, green eyes, likes holidays, meals out, drinks, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 334025** 📱

SUSIE 55, medium build, dark hair, blue eyes, 5ft 5ins, own home, likes historical places, driving, travel, walks, tv, seeks N/S male with similar interests. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 333997** 📱

CHERYL 51, attractive, brown hair, likes socialising, seeks attractive, employed male with GSOH to share good times with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 333691**

ANDREA 34, lovely, sensual with long dark hair seeks mature male to take a chance and share a romantic meal for two. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 333607** 📱

FUN flirty rock chic, curvy size 12 seeks likeminded male to share special times and bring sunshine into her life. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 333605** 📱

JILL stunning blue eyed blonde, sporty, devoted footie fan, seeks tall, active guy who's not too shy to try something a bit different. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 333603** 📱

ANNA 43, sensual blue eyed blonde, slim and vivacious, loves to wine and dine seeks tall, dark male for good conversation, fun and romance. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 333601** 📱

SUE honest, caring, understanding, young 53, seeks tall, honest male, 48-55. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 333663** 📱

DIANA 46, blonde hair, blue eyes, 5ft 4ins, slim, no ties, OHAC, GSOH, likes nights out, travel, seeks similar male, 44-50. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 333555** 📱

FUN loving, attractive, black female, slim, 38, 5ft 7ins, likes walks, reading, theatre, music, seeks genuine, caring, European gent to share laughter and life. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 333815**

SANDRA 60, bubbly widow WLTM loving male who knows how to treat a lady for good conversation and relaxed fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 333631** 📱

GEORGIE 45, cuddly bubbly blonde, seeks laid back guy to chill out, share adult conversation and relaxing no strings fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 333629** 📱

BEAUTIFUL vivacious female seeks kind hearted, affectionate guy to come home and share relaxing evenings together. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 333627** 📱

JUDY youthful slim nurse 45, no ties, can't wait to raise the temperature of a discreet, experienced, confident guy. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 333625** 📱

38YR old female, African, seeks caring, honest English male, 30-45 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 331519** 📱

FEMALE likes walks, gym, dancing, seeks tall male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 331469** 📱

ATTRACTIVE lady, late 50's, lively, outgoing, bubbly, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 330793** 📱

MARIA 45, smoker, slim, likes most things in life, GSOH, seeks tall male, 45-50 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 327447**

CLAIRE 31, stunning, tall and curvy, long/dark, curly hair, likes to keep fit, seeks genuine male to share fun, friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 330423** 📱

ELLIE very affectionate, slim but curvy, auburn hair, hazel eyes, no ties, lives life to the full, seeks mature male for friendship/more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 329189** 📱

CHRISSY 5ft 2ins, 55, divorced, likes animals, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 328929** 📱

MARGARET adventurous, well preserved professional, loving, kind, with many interests, seeks a younger male for fun times. Discretion assured. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 329183** 📱

SHY easygoing 32yr old female, seeks caring guy, 32-40 for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 329469**

RACHEL 36, sensual bubbly nurse, very fit and eager to please, seeks uncomplicated reliable male for some off duty fun. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 330431** 📱

LESLEY 49, attractive cuddly blonde, baby blue eyes, likes music, days out, seeks caring older male to brighten up her days and liven up her nights! **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 330429** 📱

LINDA 26, cheeky, curvy brunette, a little shy at first, likes to look after herself, seeks dark haired male for discreet naughty but fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 330427** 📱

LISA 42, medium build, African, likes cooking, walks, music, days in/out, WLTM caring, down to earth male, 40-50. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 332817** 📱

BLACK female, N/S, 44, 5ft 5ins, likes cinema, cooking, seeks N/S white, kind, honest, loving male, 48-56 with similar interests. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 332979** 📱

52YR old female, honest, reliable, trustworthy, likes socialising, meals out, cinema, travel, seeks similar male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 332983** 📱

HEATHER 36, tall blue eyed brunette, shy, but always up for a laugh, looking to let her hair down with a tall, romantic male. Looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 332633** 📱

HAYLEY 22, bubbly blue eyed blonde, tattoos and piercings, loves to live life to the full, seeking exciting male, up for anything, for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 332631** 📱

GENUINELY attractive, young looking, late 50's lady, 5ft 8ins, reddish hair, likes France, theatre, music, outdoors, seeks tall, dark haired gent for lasting relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 324525**

ELIZABETH 58, likes countryside, meals out, horse riding, seeks male with similar interests for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 329785**

PROFESSIONAL female, fun loving, late 40's, likes outdoor life, meals out, nights in, seeks professional male, under 60 for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 329011** 📱

HONEST caring, understanding lady, 5ft 5ins, likes good food, nights in, cinema, cooking, seeks black/white male, 55-65 for relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 327765**

PRETTY petite brunette, lovely green eyes, looking for tall, dark, dishy man to sweep her off her feet for some hands on fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 378436**

SAM 35, single mum to 3 teenage boys, smoker, looking for someone for laughs, meals out, cinema and generally having a good time. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 327577** 📱

BEV 41, gorgeous, bored, green eyed blonde, looking for fun nights in or out with discreet man who can turn a spark into a fire. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 330435** 📱

LADY gaga 27, seeks tall, handsome Lord goo goo, 30-35 to be wined, dined and maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 327455**

JANINE 43, stunning slim, blue eyed blonde WLTM tall male to get to know, share romantic candlelight dinners, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 332627** 📱

SEDUCTIVE saucy blue eyed blonde seeks happy go lucky male for lots of fun and attention. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 332625** 📱

AMANDA voluptuous loving brunette, no ties, seeking sensual, discreet, tactile male who would love her just as she is. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 329181** 📱

LADY 50's, N/S, likes theatre, walks, gardening, swimming, meals out, seeks genuine, N/S male of similar age and interests. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 327401**

ATTRACTIVE brunette, blue eyes, 5ft 3ins, petite, mid 50's, seeks gent of similar age for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 331731** 📱

HEATHER 48, attractive, well travelled, no ties, seeks honest older male for romance and TLC. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 330425** 📱

NEED some company? Norma still has what it takes to have a good time seeks broadminded male. Discretion appreciated. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 329185** 📱

PERFECT 10! Young 42, blonde, attractive and free again, looking for someone younger to make her feel alive. No Strings. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 378440**

GIRLS just wanna have fun! Voluptuous blue eyed blonde busty, enjoys cosy nights in and wild nights out seeks male who is ready for her! **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 378446**

SMALL beautiful green eyed nurse, red hair, very naughty, seeks male to care for. I would love to take your temperature! **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 378438**

GERALDINE seeks male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 321449**

PETITE size 8 female, lots of love to give, seeks male, 25-45 for friendship, possibly romance. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 314811** 📷

LOVELY young at heart, blue eyed blonde, loves to dance seeks tall male who knows how to treat a lady. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376638**

FEMININE blonde lady, 61, 5ft 7ins, seeks attractive, caring, intelligent male, 50-65 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 320357** 📱

SUE young 43, long dark hair, very adventurous seeks mature male with plenty of experience to chill out and share uncomplicated friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 378306** 📱

ATTRACTIVE slim, young lady, seeks genuine black male for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 348468** 📱

SLIM Asian female, 47, honest, attractive, likes music, meals out, tv, seeks attractive, sensible male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 324787**

DOWN to earth lady, 5ft 3ins, black hair, likes most things, Italian parents, seeks mature, relaxed male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 326655**

BARBARA 56, happy, slim, blonde, likes running, cycling, cinema, theatre, shopping, seeks tall, fit, loving guy to hold my shopping bags. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 317173**

MEN seeking women

Ladies Text n' Chat. Text in now and chat to local people. Send : CHAT883 To : 65125 (T&C's below)

PETER 23, tall, slim, ginger hair, 5ft 6ins, outgoing, loving, caring, seeks outgoing, loving, caring female, up to 27. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 335029** 📱

NICE looking male, 55, seeks mature female for fun, outings and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 334975** 📱

SIMON seeks slim female for friendship, fun and LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 334923** 📱

RAY 39, shy, seeks female, 20-39 for fun and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379836** 📱

70YR old gent, loves home/garden, countryside, seeks female for TLC and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 334755**

55YR old male, 5ft 9ins, divorced, seeks N/S female, 45-60. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 334713**

WIDOWER retired, OHAC, seeks local lady, any age for kisses and cuddles. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 334709** 📱

KEVIN 49, well built, 6ft, seeks female for fun and friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 334689** 📱

PETER 56, likes music, cinema, outdoors, seeks sensual female for companionship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 334631** 📱

RICHARD 45, dark hair, blue eyes, 5ft 6ins, easygoing, likes holidays, travel, cooking, music, cinema, meals out, seeks female for relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 334623** 📱

PROFESSIONAL Asian male, 45, likes wining/dining, seeks female, 30-40 for casual relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 334593**

JOHN 42, 5ft 10ins, muscular, likes motor bikes, cars, pubs, meals out, seeks female, 25-48 for nights in/out, friendship and romance. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 334535** 📱

5FT 10ins male, 58, widow, likes cooking, travel, dogs, seeks female, 50-70. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379850** 📱

TALL slim, dark haired, attractive male, young 54, seeks attractive, slim female for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 334557**

MEDITERRANEAN male, 5ft 2ins, likes sports, music, seeks female for relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 333925** 📱

PHIL 63, retired, seeks female to put the spark back into life. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 333871** 📱

ADVENTUROUS 47yr old male, seeks younger female who wants extra excitement in her life. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 334493**

ANDY fun guy, seeks attractive, assertive, open minded female for relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 333965** 📱

ATTRACTIVE 47yr old male, seeks younger female, for no strings discreet fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 334449** 📱

DAVID 64, slim, dark hair, seeks amiable female companion. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 334445**

ANDREW 58, 5ft 7ins, likes walks, camping, dogs, meals out, seeks similar aged female to enjoy good things in life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 334375** 📱

40YR old tall, slim, shy male, seeks nice pair of legs with adventurous, assertive woman attached. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 334337**

ARTISTIC male, likes most things, countryside, seeks caring, honest female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 334307** 📱 📷

45YR old male, 5ft 11ins, slim, genuine, considerate, likes pubs, days out, walks, coast, seeks female, 35-45 for relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 334125** 📱

BOB 61, green eyes, brown hair, happy go lucky, likes seaside, walks, theatre, seeks N/S female, 60-65 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 334093** 📱

STEVE young 50, seeks female, 40-48 for fun and friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 334063** 📱

STEVE 43, 5ft 7ins, slim, nice looking, easygoing, down to earth, seeks pretty, petite, slim, loving female for special lifetime relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 333989** 📱

ANDY WLTM attractive, assertive female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 333953**

MICHAEL 62, retired, 6ft 3ins, likes reading, music, theatre, meals out, seeks female with GSOH for days out, evenings, companionship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 333943** 📱 📷

TALL uncomplicated Christian male, mid 50's, refuses to take himself too seriously, GSOH, seeks friendship with female, 45 or under. Croydon. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 334395** 📱

YOUNG 64yr old male, seeks female of similar age or younger, slim, petite, N/S, social drinker for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 334273** 📱

WHITE male, 61, N/S, own home, GSOH, seeks romantic, understanding, black/Asian female, 40-60 for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 334099** 📱

YOUNG looking Caribbean male, 47, likes nights in/out, seeks honest, genuine female for friendship plus. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 333749**

ANDY 47, slim, honest, tanned, African, likes cooking, pool, pubs, nights in/out, seeks nice female, 30-60 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379604**

BLACK male, 42, kind, caring, easygoing, seeks white female, 38-49 for lasting relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 333829** 📱

HANDSOME tall, black male, seeks attractive female, any age for fun and who knows what. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379678** 📱

MALE likes films, meals out, nights in/out, seeks slim, adventurous, funny, outgoing female for fun and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379662** 📱

GRAHAM 45, attractive, fit, romantic, blond, likes sports, cinema, meals out, photography, seeks similar female for love. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 333547** 📱

YOUNG 60's male, early retired, seeks active, mature female for friendship/companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 333475**

5FT 8ins male, blue eyes, 29, GSOH, likes clubs, nights in, tv, meals out, seeks female, 20-45. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 333467**

JOHN well travelled, seeks African/Asian female for good times, possible LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 333443** 📱

GENUINE fun loving guy, 5ft 8ins, average build, blue eyes, short dark hair, seeks female for dating, cinema, meals out, etc with view to LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 333423** 📱 📷

52YR old male, likes meals out, cinema, music, seeks nice, cuddly, mature female, 60 plus for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 333405** 📱

DEREK young 48, likes most things, own home, seeks female to share happy times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 332791** 📱

COLIN mid 70's, N/S, GSOH, likes music, films, walks, meals out, wine, seeks female, 60-70's. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 332781** 📱

47YR old male, 6ft, decent, hardworking, likes running, walks, drives, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 332977** 📱

52YR old white male, likes meals out, cinema, walks, music, seeks nice, cuddly black female, any age for fun and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 332971** 📱

TALL upbeat male, mid 50's, adventurous spirit, seeks female, 45 or younger for serious relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 328583** 📱

MALE 25, easygoing, likes nights in/out, movies, seeks female, 18-25. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 332967** 📱

THANET male, 5ft 5ins, dark hair, young 64, caring, likes travel, countryside, seeks slim-medium build, attractive soul mate for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 332921**

BRIAN 5ft 7ins, glasses, bald, likes country walks, films, seeks female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 332903** 📱

ADVENTUROUS male, seeks discreet, likeminded female for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 332813** 📱

ROB 29, dad of 1, caring, loving, GSOH, blue eyes, short hair, likes gardening, cinema, clubs, pubs, walks, motorbikes, seeks lady, 21-40. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 333809** 📱

GAY singles seeking

IF YOU'RE LOOKING to connect and chat with other men look no further TXT: **GAY883** to **65125** for 3 chat matches, fun and safe service.

LATE 30's male, tall, large build, bi, seeks similar bi/gay guy, 18-24. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 334919** 📱

MICHAEL 67, 5ft 10ins, grey hair, retired, seeks male for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 334701**

MICHAEL 48, tactile, caring, seeks similar male for fun, good times and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 333947**

EASYGOING guy, 62, likes outdoors, countryside, walks, seeks slim, N/S quiet guy for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 333477** 📱

PETER 49, medium build, seeks male, 55-70. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 329399** 📱

ROY mid 60's, bi, seeks male, 50-70 for fun and friendship. CD welcome. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 329117** 📱

57YR old slim male, clean shaven, likes CD, seeks male, 40-65 for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 328811** 📱

STEVEN young 58, slim, smooth, attractive, convincing, feminine CD, seeks masculine guy of similar age or older for discreet relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 323453**

JUST good friends

FEMALE seeks middle aged female, 50-60, likes walks, gym, dancing for fun times, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 334787** 📱

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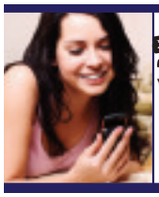

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By **STEVE KNIGHT**

£6.5m jobs fund 'fantastic opportunity for employers'

EMPLOYERS are being invited to take advantage of money provided through the Future Jobs Fund for new workers.

Chancellor George Osborne announced that the fund will soon be axed as part of widespread spending cuts, but Kent County Council had already been awarded £6.5 million through a successful bid made before the General Election.

The cash is enough to create 1,000 full-time work or training placements for young people aged between 18-24 who have been unemployed for six months or more.

Prospective employers are asked to take on new staff for 18 months, with groups from the public, private or voluntary sector all invited to apply.

KCC cabinet member for community services Cllr Mike Hill said: "This is a fantastic opportunity for employers to bring fresh enthusiasm and ideas into their organisations and businesses at no cost to themselves.

Placements

"In the current economic climate some businesses have had to scale back staff or not refill vacant posts.

"Taking advantage of the Future Jobs Fund is an ideal way to give your business a boost and give these young people valuable experience and future prospects at the same time."

Of the 1,000 placements available through the funding, more than 200 have already been snapped up for a variety of roles, including countryside support officer, catering assistant, web designer and groundskeeper.

Prospective employers have also been advised they do not need to worry about the administration of the scheme, as the process is managed by the Supporting Independence team at KCC. The team advertises posts through Jobcentre Plus before compiling a shortlist of candidates, so employers only have to interview those deemed suitable for specific roles.

Call the Future Jobs Fund team on 01474 330943 or email fjf@kent.gov.uk for more information. The scheme is also open to people outside the 18-24 age group if they live in an area of high unemployment or have been out of work for at least 26 weeks.

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GOAL-GETTERS: Hundred of Hoo business students celebrate their trip to Brussels

Students triumph on the back of enterprising World Cup bid

BUSINESS students from the special measures Hundred of Hoo School in Medway silenced their critics by winning the Kent Young Enterprise competition.

The youngsters won a trip to Brussels and progressed to the southern finals after impressing the judges with their global marketing campaign, which involved selling World Cup products to shoppers in New York.

They also set up an exhibition, made presentations and produced detailed reports of their sales, profit margins and more.

Head of business studies Dilip Sandhu said: "The talent of the teams in the Kent finals was exemplary.

"They have the potential to be the future entrepreneurs of this country, and it shows we can compete with the best in Kent and succeed."

Campus top draw

THE School of Arts building at the University of Kent has won an award for architectural excellence.

Based at the Canterbury campus, the £6.25 million Jarman Building – named after the iconic British artist Derek Jarman – impressed the judges from the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA).

Designs on crown

THE University for the Creative Arts will defend its Graduate Fashion Week crown at London's Earls Court this week.

Last year Rochester student Myrto Stamou beat 300 other competitors to win the £20,000 top prize, and the university is hoping for further success this year.

It will show off its collections this weekend.

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Must be available to work 5 days per week, weekends included and have accommodation in the Dover area. Applicants will be subject to a CRB disclosure.
Character Performer also required, to work across all 5 Dover ships.
Please email you CV to:
jobs@livebusiness.co.uk

Live Business Grosvenor Productions, 6 Square Rigger Row, Plantation Wharf, London, SW11 3TZ

Alzheimer's & Dementia
SUPPORT SERVICES
Registered Charity Number 1024385

Relief Care Worker/Escort
Day Centre, Northfleet
This position offers cover for our day centre workers/escorts. We offer a service Monday-Saturday for clients with dementia. Days and hours would be variable.
The rate of pay is £6.61 per hour
If you are a caring person with a positive approach to the needs of people with dementia, please call Jackie on 01474 533990 for an application pack.
Closing date: Friday 25th June

To advertise in this section **01303 817040**

"Sales careers done properly?"

That's Saga.

OPPORTUNITIES IN GENERAL INSURANCE, OUTBOUND SALES AND BROKING

GENERAL INSURANCE AND OUTBOUND SALES • Basic salary of £10,856 - £13,000 • OTE £16k - £18k+ (basic salary and uncapped commission)
BROKING • Basic salary of £14,000 + uncapped commission
Excellent benefits packages | Folkestone and Thanet

It's real people we are after… people who will listen to customers, take the time to understand their needs and build a genuine rapport with them. That's what we call doing things properly for our customers as we deliver great service, selling our products to people aged 50 and over.

And if you can help us achieve that, we'll do things properly for you too. You'll get excellent training and development at every stage and your hard work will be rewarded with the chance to earn additional bonuses, incentive trips, entry to our elite Top Producers' Club and unlimited earnings potential. There are also superb benefits including private healthcare, pension scheme, social club and discounts on insurance products, holidays and flights for you and your relatives.

What's more, it means a friendly working environment – as well as all the support you need to do a terrific job.

The question is, have you got what it takes? You'll need to be target driven and able to rise to new challenges, that's for sure. If you're interested in either our Outbound or Broking roles, relevant experience would be beneficial, but not essential.

If it's time for you to enjoy the rewards you deserve please write enclosing an application form, quoting reference SVS401/KOS to Mark Mear, Group Director of Sales, c/o Human Resources Department, Saga Group Limited, Enbrook Park, Folkestone, Kent CT20 3SE or email: human.resources@saga.co.uk Please call 01303 774888 for an application form or download one from our website.

Closing date: 11 June 2010.

saga.co.uk

INVESTORS IN PEOPLE

SAGA
Saga people do things properly

We are looking for an exceptional sales person for a field sales position in the Ashford area
Only hard working, tenacious and motivated professionals need apply

Ideally from a sales background you will understand the importance of balancing good customer service with achieving targets. Media experience is not essential as training will be given.

KOS Media is one of the fastest growing independent multi media companies serving the Kent county. We publish 14 weekly newspapers including the flagship Kent on Sunday together with seasonal /annual magazines and 20 online news sites.

We offer a good basic salary, performance and target related bonus and 5 weeks holiday.

KOS media
Award Winning Company

So if you think you have what it takes to join our sales team send your CV to **ynez.coton@kosmedia.co.uk**

JobsforKent.co.uk The smart way to find a job in the County

Littlebourne House Care Home
A busy family run home require dedicated
Domestic Staff/Care Staff and Kitchen Assistant
For more information please call
Amanda – 01227 721527
Mon - Fri

PANEL BEATER

A busy repair centre in Sandwich requires a fully qualified Panel Beater.
The successful applicant must provide a high standard of work in addition to being capable of working on their own initiative. A minimum of three years jig experience is required and accreditation to PAS125 would be advantageous.
Good rate of pay. Immediate start.

Email CV to jobs@totalmotorcare.co.uk or telephone 01304 620999

St Anne's Convent, Sturry, Canterbury
requires
two day carers
and one night carer
All will be subject to CRB disclosure

please contact:
Liz Page on 01227 711 912

The BookPeople

Run your own exciting bookselling business with the UK's biggest direct bookseller!
Full-time opportunity

Join the Book People as an independent sales distributor and you'll have the best of both worlds – working as your own boss with the support and backing of an award-winning company.

- We help you set up
- We keep your initial outlay low
- We provide full training
- Ideal for husband-and-wife teams
- Huge potential earnings

OTE £45K PA
We welcome applications from both men and women

To find out more call 0845 606 4276
or check our regularly updated information pages at www.thebookpeople.co.uk/distributors

Care

Support Workers

From £7.20 per hour

Free training, uniform & 28 days holiday

Superior Care is working with local learning disabilities and mental health organisations in around Folkestone and Ashford. We urgently require support workers to join our team.

You must have support work experience and access to your own transport. In return, we will offer flexible working hours, excellent rates of pay and a choice of placements.

For an informal discussion, please contact:

Mira
01303 221666
folkestone@superior-care.co.uk

www.superior-care.co.uk

Care

Trained Nurses

From £12.00 per hour

Free clinical development training, uniform & 28 days holiday.

We have an urgent requirement for trained nurses to accept ad-hoc and longer term nursing home assignments in South Kent.

You must have a valid PIN registration and access to your own transport. In return, we will offer competitive rates of pay including enhanced rates for specialist placements and free clinical development training.

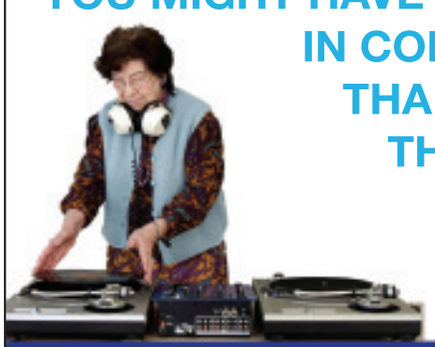
Full time or top up shifts are currently available.

For an informal discussion, please contact:

Mira
01303 221666
folkestone@superior-care.co.uk

www.superior-care.co.uk

YOU MIGHT HAVE MORE IN COMMON THAN YOU THINK....



FOR A CAREER IN CARE...

01227 265899
www.allseasons.org.uk
all seasons care services

Would you like to work for a progressive and innovative law firm?

TAYLOR GREEN

Our Client a successful law practice which is taking a fresh approach in the legal world are seeking to bring together teams of experienced lawyers, with a focus on providing high quality services which are very responsive to the needs of their clients.

Personal Injury and Credit Hire Departments:-
1. Team Managers
2. Paralegals with 12 months– 5 years+ experience
3. Legal Executives
4. Solicitors with 12 months– 5 years+ experience.

We are recruiting roles for all levels of experience and would be extremely pleased to receive applications from the following candidates:

- **Solicitors, Legal Executives and Paralegals already working within a personal injury / credit hire environment, looking to further their careers.**
- **Insurance company claims personnel with experience in dealing with personal injury claims of any complexity.**
- **Other exceptional candidates who have a real interest in starting a career in the field of Personal Injury, who may have some relevant experience gained in other role**

We are also recruiting for the following positions:-

- **First Response Unit Trainee Paralegals**
- **Cost Draftsman –all levels**
- **Web Developers**

All roles within the Practice attract very competitive salaries.

To apply email with your CV to Rebecca@taylor-green.co.uk or call 0208 313 7863

To advertise in this section
01303 817040

nacro
changing lives
reducing crime

Nacro is the principal crime reduction charity in England and Wales. It works to reduce crime by delivering a range of socially inclusive crime prevention initiatives by working for a fair and effective criminal justice system and by resettling offenders.

Nacro Services in Kent and Medway offers vocational and skills training to young people aged 14-19years / adult learners and those who wish to improve their literacy and numeracy. Our aim is to motivate raise self-esteem and increase self confidence through effective training and skills development to progress our learners into education, training or employment.

As our provision extends we are looking for lively, self motivated individuals who enjoy the challenge of working with people of all ages but, in particular, young people.

We have the following vacancies at our Newbridge House Centre Chatham:

TRAINER

£17,834 pa
We hold contracts for Entry to Employment (e2e) and Schools to deliver programmes which engage and develop young people in order that they may progress into Employment, Training or Further Education.
We are looking for an individual to join our staff team who is enthusiastic, lively and creative. You will be someone with experience/qualifications in Personal and Social areas so that we can expand our programme for young people.
You will be required to work as part of a team and under your own initiative.
Experience in employer engagement, inductions and reviews would also be desirable.

KEY SKILLS TRAINER (part time) 16hrs

£17,834pa(pro-rata)
This role is to provide high quality Key Skills for Life for young people aged 16-19. You must have good administrative skills and record keeping and ability to produce reports and monitoring of all information. Good time management is a must as well as to be able to communicate effectively at all levels verbally and in writing.
You will be required to work as part of a team and under your own initiative.
Experience of challenging behaviour would be an advantage.

We have the following vacancies at our Sittingbourne Centre:

YOUTH WORKER (part time) 18hrs
ESF Switched On Project

£7,946
We are looking for an enthusiastic individual who can motivate and engage young people between the ages of 14-16 on short motivational courses. You will need to be willing to travel to deliver the courses in various locations across Kent.

PROJECT WORKER x 2 ESF TIE Project (full time)

£17,834 pa
We are looking for an individual to join our staff team who is enthusiastic, lively and creative. You will be someone with experience/qualifications in Personal and Social areas so that we can expand our programme with 14-19 year old young people. You will need to be willing to travel to deliver the courses in various locations across Kent, and including the Young Offenders Institute in Medway.

These posts could work from our Sittingbourne or Chatham Centres

Closing date for all the above posts is 25 June 2010

Contact Colin.farrow@nacro.org.uk or call Colin Farrow on 01634 818305 for an application pack.

VOLUNTEERS
We are looking for people who like to volunteer to support the learners in our Centres in various roles e.g. mentoring, support for Skills for Life, book keeping and in particular reception type duties. Travel and lunch expenses are paid.

Contact Colin.farrow@nacro.org.uk or call Colin Farrow on 01634 818305 for an application pack.

Largest Truck & Van Dealer in Kent
HAYNES
Maidstone

EXPERIENCED TRUCK TECHNICIAN

Join a winning team.
We know that you will not be disappointed!

Excellent basic rates and bonuses
Overtime working available
Company pension scheme
Individual staff manufacturer training programmes
Modern fully equipped workshops

We offer excellent packages in line with experience and are an equal opportunities employer with a policy of promotion through ability. With over 300 staff across nine locations, many with significant lengths of service, the Haynes Group recognise the importance of employment stability.

For details on these outstanding opportunities contact Matthew Curtis - Service Manager on either 07967 010053 or email m.curtis@haynesgrp.co.uk

Part of the Haynes Group of Companies

Experienced
SENIOR CARER

required for part time duties. Sat and Sun 7.30am-5.30pm each week to work at our pleasant EMI Home. Preferably holding an NVQ 3 or working towards.

Contact Toni Lawrence
01634 724113

BAR & WAITING STAFF

Full time and part time work available. Tunbridge Wells area.

£6.50 to £7.00 per hour.

Tel: 01892 515532

Part Time Drivers & Child Supervisors

required for home to school transport (not owner drivers). Term time only. ALSO

Weekend Taxi Drivers

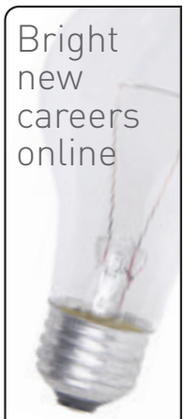
Help with Licence fees. Clean Licence.
Tonbridge
Call Dan on 01732 355866

Part-time
Mystery Shoppers
required
No experience required. Must have access to email For more information, contact Louise on
07779377223

Stylists

required for busy and very friendly High Street Salon in Tenterden. Full or Part time positions required, must have at least 4 years Salon experience. Competitive rates of pay plus commission. Please ring 01580764067 or 07970309800 for more information or leave a message.

Bright new careers online



Register your details and we'll email you daily with new jobs that match your selected criteria

JobsforKent.co.uk
The smart way to find a job in the County

POWERED BY
KOS MEDIA

Jobs for Kent continues on page 85...

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Dover Counselling Centre, a local charity, is looking for volunteers who can help our busy, but friendly admin team, for general admin tasks, fundraising and outreach support. Some previous experience of admin required. Regular hours to suit. Confidentiality essential. Expenses reimbursed.

Contact: Deborah Gibbons: 01304 204123 or visit our website; www.dovercc.org.uk

ACCOUNTS CLERK

Folkestone based office
12 months Maternity Cover

Must have experience in all aspects of Sage Line 50 Accounts Package.
20 hours per week, can be flexible.

Please send CV to the Personnel Manager
Smith-Woolley & Perry
43 Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone CT20 2RB
E-mail: helenw@swandp.co.uk

Faversham Residential Home

Require

Weekend Domestic
9-2pm

General Assistant – Kitchen based
5-9pm (3 evenings per week on rota)

Care Assistant
35 hours on rota, experience preferred
and

Relief Cook
For holidays and sickness cover 8.30-2.30pm

For further details please call 01795 532629

The Hollies Care Home invites candidates to apply for the post of:

ACTIVITIES COORDINATOR

Should be able to communicate well and arrange activities, games, reminiscence and outings for elders with dementia.
20 hours a week @ £7 p/h (negotiable.)

Contact: John 01892 535346 between 9am-5pm on weekdays

Looking for a job in Herne Bay

Working for a company that's professional and respects their employees. Providing personal / domestic care for the elderly in their own homes

YES Call Steph **01227 772515**

Subject to CRB checks Uniform, training provided.

SALES EXECUTIVE

Sevenoaks Peugeot

Required to join a strong team at this successful branch.
The successful applicant will have

- experience of a similar role in the industry or a proven track record in sales
- Will demonstrate the ability to delivery both profitability and a first class customer service
- Have excellent interpersonal skills and a positive approach

Please telephone Sue Byrom on 01732 740470

MidKent College

MidKent College based in the Medway Towns and Maidstone is seeking to appoint outstanding individuals in the following areas:

Lecturer/Course Leader in Art and Design
Ref: P0413

Salary: £28,463 - £32,251 per annum
(dependent on qualifications and experience)
Maidstone

This compact, high achieving Art and Design department requires a leader who is inspirational and multi-skilled, able to teach traditional painting, sculpture, fashion and textiles, photography and graphic design as well as be proficient with computer based design processes. They should be motivational with both staff and students, able to guide the team forward into the new BTEC Diplomas, liaise constructively with higher management and pursue local contacts to ensure the courses develop and maintain a vocational link. The successful candidate will hold or be willing to work towards a recognised teaching qualification. Part time hours also available, please state clearly on your application your preference.

Lecturer in Public Services
Ref: P0457

Salary: £24,096 - £28,963 per annum
(dependent on qualifications and experience)
Maidstone

We are looking for an excellent individual to participate in the delivery of Public Services programmes throughout the College. The successful candidate will teach on a range of BTEC / NCFE, and School Links programmes and have a background in Public Services. This post will also involve working with students in sports, expeditions and off-site visits to various Public Services areas.

Lecturer in Health and Social Care
Ref: P0323

Salary: £24,096 - £28,963 pro rata
(dependent on qualifications and experience)
18.5 hours per week
Maidstone

We are looking for a passionate candidate to be involved in the delivery of edexcel Healthcare programmes. The successful candidate will have proven knowledge and experience within Healthcare environments and hold or be willing to work towards a recognised teaching qualification.

Lecturer in Functional Skills
Ref: P0385

Salary: £24,096 - £28,963 per annum
(dependent on qualifications and experience)
Maidstone

The College is looking to recruit an outstanding individual to participate in the delivery of Functional Skills programmes across the College. The role will involve embedding Functional Skills within learners' programmes of study and ensuring that learners develop and achieve the skills they need to progress. The successful candidate will hold or be willing to work towards a recognised teaching qualification.

Lecturer in Child Care
Ref: P0070

Salary: £24,096 - £28,963 pro rata
(dependent on qualifications and experience)
Fixed Term Maternity Cover
Medway 18.5 hours per week

We are looking for a knowledgeable and experienced candidate to deliver CACHE Child Care programmes at various levels. The successful candidate will have the ability to motivate students and be flexible and adaptable in their teaching methods. The applicants must have a relevant vocational/academic qualification and have, or be willing to work towards, a teaching qualification. Recent industry experience would be advantageous.

Departmental Administrator
Ref: M0171

Salary: £15,453 - £17,243 per annum
Fixed Term Maternity Cover
Medway

We are looking to recruit an Administrator/Secretary with excellent administration and organisational skills to join one of the largest Faculties within the College, Services to People. The successful candidate will be able to demonstrate knowledge of office procedures and ability to use MS office packages.

Technician in Hair and Beauty
Ref: M0296

Salary: £15,453 - £17,243 per annum
Fixed Term Maternity Cover
Maidstone

We are looking for an organised candidate to assist the smooth running of the Hair and Beauty department. Responsibilities will include providing technical support to staff and students and setting-up the classrooms as required. Experience in the industry would be advantageous.

Closing date: Wednesday 16 June 2010

MidKent College is working in partnership with RBLI Employment Solutions to support individuals who have a disability or health condition in the application, interview and employment with the college. If you would like any further information regarding RBLI, or require assistance with your application process then please contact RBLI on 0800 783 1144 or visit their website www.rbli.co.uk for information, advice and guidance.

The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of employment is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check in accordance with the College procedure.

Application forms and further details are available from www.midkent.ac.uk. Alternatively, please e-mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk. For individuals without access to e-mail or the internet please call the HR department on 01634 383102 (24 hour answer machine). In all communication with the College please quote the appropriate job title and reference number.

MidKent College is an equal opportunities employer

Action for Business College · Investors in Diversity · Positive About Disabled People · RBLI · Investor in People

COMMUNITY SUPPORT WORKERS
REQUIRED FOR EXPANDING CARE AGENCY!

FULL-TIME, EVENINGS AND WEEK-END SHIFTS AVAILABLE IN TONBRIDGE & TUNBRIDGE WELLS

- Self Employed basis only
- £8.25 to £10.00 per hour
- You need to be happy taking responsibility and working with older people on your own
- Must have own car and phone
- Uniform provided
- Full Training programme available

Experience preferred but not essential.
All applicants subject to Enhanced CRB Check
CALL ELAINE/JULIA ON
01892 529429 FOR AN INTERVIEW
www.terrablu.co.uk
An Investor in People Employer

Part Time Team Members

Everyone knows **KFC** is the best place for fresh, great tasting chicken because of our secret recipe. But did you know that we also offer tasty careers in our restaurants.

We are currently recruiting for our new store at 4-5 Valence House, Sutton Road, Maidstone.

Whether you're looking for real development opportunities, a second job, or work that fits your lifestyle, we've got it. That's because at KFC, everyone matters to our success. Which is why we want your time with us to be rewarding and fun.

If you are ready, email your CV to
staff@castlebarn.myzen.co.uk

Interviews will be held on 22nd June between 10am - 6pm at our town centre store.

DAVID WATSON TRANSPORT

A haulier of high repute within the lorry loader industry, requires

LORRY LOADER OPERATOR

at our Cliffe, Kent depot.
C+E (Old Class 1) (drawbar) required; full training given for all other aspects.
More than a driving job, including lifting and handling, you will enjoy a variation of work getting dirty at times. You will be required to work overtime inc. weekends. You will be focused on customer satisfaction, friendly, polite, presentable and able to work on own initiative. We offer good rates of pay, private medical healthcare and pension scheme to the person with the attitude and aptitude to be an ambassador for the company.

Contact Jason Green on 01634 221791 with brief details or apply on line at www.davidwatsontransport.co.uk

...Jobs for Kent continued from page 28

The leading book producer requires experienced Staff for 2 positions:

Customer Service Executive & Customer Service/Inventory Executive

Successful candidates should have relevant customer service experience in a busy demanding environment. Technical knowledge from within the print or paper industry would be desirable.

Send Cv's to: **Lisa Faratro, CPI Mackays, Badger Road, Lordswood, Chatham, Kent ME5 8TD** by Friday 11th June

MERIDIAN CARE
require
COMMUNITY CARERS in Canterbury

Full training given. Competitive rates of pay with enhancement paid for NVQ qualification. Mileage allowance and full support given for both new and experienced carers. Own transport essential.

For Canterbury, Deal and Sandwich call 01227 712300
Alternatively email us at MeridianCbury@aol.com

Assistant Manager
Required For Residential Care Home
In Folkestone

We are looking to recruit an enthusiastic and committed person.
Must have minimum NVQ Level 3 qualification, and experience in caring for the elderly is essential.

Please call Miss Julia Carter (Home Manager) on 01303 254019

Subject to satisfactory CRB Check

Licenced Security Guard

required for 5 star holiday Park.
Immediate start. Seasonal position.
Good rate of pay.
Accommodation available if required.
Polite and presentable manner.
Please send CV to Jane Stacey,
The Foxhunter Park, Monkton, Kent CT12 4JG
jane@thefoxhunterpark.co.uk

SHORT TERM FINANCE LTD.

We are a large progressive family run business with over 100 years experience in the home collected credit industry.

WANTED

Experienced agents currently working in home collected credit, with the ability to build their own rounds. We offer the very best rates of pay, up to twice the amount that our competitors pay.
For an Informal **Confidential** chat please contact

Craig Bradshaw
Southern General Manager
Mobile: 07701 099837
Office: 01708 804923

Care

Community Carers

From £7.00 per hour

Comprehensive training, free uniform & 28 days holiday

Superior Care provides care to elderly clients living in their own homes, in and around Canterbury, Herne Bay and Whitstable.

Due to continuous growth, we urgently require new candidates to join our team.

Experience is not essential; a full induction and training will be provided.

Successful candidates will offer a caring and compassionate demeanour, and be flexible in their working hours. In return, we will offer competitive rates of pay, the opportunity to join a close knit team, and various benefits such as paid holiday and ongoing training.

Full time hours or evening/weekend top-up work is available.

For an informal discussion, please contact:

Sue
01227 771122
whitstable@superior-care.co.uk

www.**superior-care**.co.uk

Care

Personal Assistant

IRO £20,000

Career development opportunities

You will work in our head office and assist the company's director in her duties. Given the nature of our business and the director's role, your responsibilities will be varied and include aspects of administration relating to both sales and recruitment.

You must have proven administrative ability, be proactive, confident, and enjoy working in a fast paced environment alongside an energetic team.

You will need to demonstrate first class verbal and written communication skills, and have a robust knowledge of IT applications including Microsoft Office.

Please send a CV and covering letter in the first instance
Superior Care
136 Cromwell Road
Whitstable
Kent CT5 1NQ

HR@superior-care.co.uk

www.**superior-care**.co.uk

PRODUCTION TECHNICIAN

Peli Hardigg UK Ltd manufacture varied products using injection and roto moulded cases and custom foam fabrication. Many customers are high profile and attention to detail and excellent finish is essential.
Duties require manual skills in the areas of production and foam fabrication. The assembly and installation of foam liners. The ability to work to and inspect against engineering design drawings. Good, safe and confident operation of factory equipment including band saws and hot air guns. Reliable attendance and punctuality is essential.
Pay - £7.00 per hour + benefits

All applications to:-
Hardigg UK Ltd
Mrs H. Edwards
Unit 4 Brookfield
Leacon Road,
Ashford, Kent. TN23 4TU

Turner Contemporary

Visitor Services Manager £34k
Press & Events Officer £25k
Marketing Officer £25k

Turner Contemporary, Margate, is seeking ambitious, creative and highly motivated individuals to join the team.

Designed by David Chipperfield Architects, the Gallery will open in spring 2011.

You will be joining us at a key stage in our development as we prepare to welcome visitors next year.

To find out more about Turner Contemporary and to apply for any of the above roles, go to: **www.turnercontemporary.org**

Closing date for applications: **Fri 18 June 2010**
Interviews week commencing **28 June 2010**

Public Sector

You can also find the latest jobs online: www.jobsforkent.co.uk

KOSMEDIA | Telephone: 01303 817040 | Fax: 01303 817004 | Email: appointments@kosmedia.co.uk | Online: www.jobsforkent.co.uk

History Teacher

Part time flexible hours (7-13hours)

Required for September 2010 or soon after

Sackville School

Headmaster: Peter Lane BSc

Tonbridge Road
Hildenborough
Kent TN11 9HN

T: 01732 838888
F: 01732 836404
E: office @sackvilleschool.com
W: sackvilleschool.com

We are an Independent Secondary School and are looking to recruit a professional, resourceful and enthusiastic graduate Historian to teach across the age range. An ability to teach another subject would be welcomed, although not essential.

Closing date for applications: 18th June at midday

Interviews: Tuesday 25th June

Please contact for an application pack 01732 836400 or email susan.watkins@sackvilleschool.com

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Saint George's

Church of England School
Humanities College

Founded 1580

Meadow Road, Gravesend
Kent DA11 7LS
Tel: 01474 533082
Fax: 01474 561536
HEADTEACHER: Mrs A Southgate BDAKC

Church of England, Voluntary Aided, Humanities College
11-18, Mixed, Comprehensive School

FAMILY LIAISON OFFICER

FIXED TERM 12 MONTH CONTRACT
(Full time post – 37 hours per week, Term Time Only)
Kent Scheme Band 6 £18,471 to £20,262
(approx £15,586 to £17,098)

We are seeking to appoint a Family Liaison Officer to drive attendance and to work proactively to reduce persistent absence. We are seeking to appoint a person who is enthusiastic, tenacious and self motivated to work with young people and their families who are experiencing difficulties in maintaining a minimum attendance of 94%.

Saint George's C of E School is an over-subscribed school. This post comes at an exciting time for the school as we are preparing for new buildings under Wave 4 of BSF.

Saint George's C of E School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children.

All appointments are subject to List 99 and enhanced CRB checks.

Contact us to request further details and an application form.

Email dhariwalj@saintgeorgescofe.kent.sch.uk or visit our website www.saintgeorgescofe.kent.sch.uk

Closing Date: 14 June 2010

THE SPENCER WING

The Spencer Wing is the independently owned and managed 22 bed private hospital situated on the QEQM Hospital site. We also have a 5 bed unit at the William Harvey Hospital in Ashford. The continuing growth of our business has resulted in a vacancy for the following staff:

Plaster Technician

To join our Flexi Bank
Closing date for applications – 16 June 2010

To discuss these opportunities or to arrange an informal visit, please contact Sue Bowe, Outpatient Sister - 01843 234555 Ext: 63425

For job description and application form please contact:

Jo Edwards
East Kent Medical Services Ltd, The Spencer Wing, QEQM Hospital, Ramsgate Road, Margate, Kent CT9 4BG
Telephone: 01843 234556
Fax: 01843 296333
E-mail: jo.edwards@thespencerwing.com

The Spencer Wing is an equal opportunity employer
This position is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure check INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

To advertise in this section

01303 817040

Technician – Plant and HGV (Ref: S2193)

37 hours per week, Ashford

Following the recent merger of West Kent College and South Kent College, we are looking forward to an exciting future of growth and development. Combining the resources, commitment and ambition of our teams, the new College has campuses stretching right across Kent, from Ashford, Dover and Folkestone to Tonbridge and Tunbridge Wells.

We have an opportunity to join our busy Engineering team to support staff and students in the day-to-day running of the workshops. Responsibilities will include assisting with the supervision of students under instruction, demonstrating the use of equipment and apparatus, and contributing to the safe working practices of the workshops by guiding and advising students and leading by example.

The closing date for receipt of applications is 12 noon on Monday 21st June 2010.

Please contact us for further details and an application form:
Email: humanresources@southkent.ac.uk or
Telephone: 01303 858373 [24 hour answer-phone].

All posts are subject to a disclosure check by the Criminal Records Bureau. We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults and expect all employees to share this commitment. Applications are welcome from suitably qualified candidates regardless of ethnicity, gender, age, disability, sexuality or religion.

SKC New College coming soon

Career opportunities at MidKent College

Human Resources Advisor Full or Part-time Opportunity

Salary: £30,002 - £37,179

MidKent College has existed for over 80 years and we pride ourselves on our responsiveness to employers and ability to meet the needs of our students. In July 2009 we successfully opened our new £86m campus for the Medway towns and are due to commence modernisation work at out Maidstone campus.

As part of our continued development we are looking to recruit a Human Resources Advisor who will help deliver our operational commitment, primarily at our Maidstone campus.

You will provide comprehensive Human Resources (HR) advice and guidance to the Campus Senior Leadership Team, managers and staff and actively participate in development of employment policies. In addition, you will lead on staff consultation processes, people planning, change management processes, recruitment and absence management in your designated departments. As an HR generalist you will engage with our stakeholders to enhance and support the delivery of outstanding learning opportunities at the College.

This role will involve working closely with the Head of HR and is a rare and exciting opportunity to help develop a fit for purpose HR support service.

The ideal candidate for this role will be CIPD qualified and have experience of working in unionised environments. The person will have a track record delivering professional HR advice and support and be able to demonstrate that they have the knowledge and experience to improve the performance of the HR function.

For an informal discussion please contact Ian Johnston, Head of Human Resources on 01634 383601.
Please specify on your application whether you are interested in a full or part-time position.

Benefits include: Benenden Healthcare, Pension, Generous Annual Leave, Flexible working, Childcare Vouchers

CLOSING DATE: *11 JUNE 2010* **INTERVIEW DATE: *17 JUNE 2010***

The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people. Any offer of employment is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check in accordance with the College procedure.

Application forms and further details are available from **www.midkent.ac.uk**. Alternatively, please e-mail **job.applications@midkent.ac.uk**. For individuals without access to e-mail or the internet please call the **HR department** on **01634 383102** (24 hour answer machine). In all communication with the College please quote the appropriate job title and reference number.

Action for Business College | Investors in Diversity | Positive About Disabled People | RBLI | Investor in People | MidKent College

MidKent College is an equal opportunities employer

Find a job online

Register your details and we'll email you daily with new jobs that match your selected criteria

JobsforKent.co.uk

The smart way to find a job in the County

Bradstow School

Bradstow is a fascinating and unique residential school for children between the ages of 5 & 19, set in 13 acres of parkland just a few hundred metres from the sandy beaches of Broadstairs. We seek to meet the needs of children with autism and severe learning difficulties, and have achieved national recognition for our developments in Communication and Behaviour Management.

DEPUTY HOUSE MANAGER - CHILDCARE

£22,985 - £25,472 per annum - 41 hours per week (including split shifts and weekends) – Term time only, plus 2 weeks *

Assisting the House Manager in organising and managing a group of staff working in a residential team, you'll arrange and manage the care of the children and young adults in that team on shift. Managing the administration of the team, you will take a lead role in the absence of the House Manager.

HOUSEPARENT - CHILDCARE

£19,621- £22,221 per annum - 41 hours per week (including split shifts and weekends) – Term time only, plus 2 weeks *

Working as part of the childcare team, this role involves providing care and support to students mornings, evenings and weekends being a students Keyworker, and some management responsibility.

TEAM SUPPORT WORKERS – CHILDCARE

£13,874 plus 10% per annum - 41 hours per week, (including weekends) – Term time only, plus 2 weeks * & £11,166 plus 10% per annum - 33 hours per week, (including weekends) – Term time only, plus 2 weeks * & £4,994 - 15 hours per week, (weekends only) – Term time only, plus 2 weeks *

As part of the childcare team, these roles involve providing care and support to students from Classrooms to Childcare Teams, afternoons and evenings during the week and late or early shifts each weekend.

CHILDCARE SUPPORT ASSISTANTS

£10,079 plus 10% per annum - 36.5 hours per week, (including weekends) – Term time only, plus 2 weeks *

As part of the childcare team, these roles involve providing care and support to students mornings, evenings and weekends.

LEARNING SUPPORT ASSISTANTS - EDUCATION

The successful applicants to the following two LSA roles will be responsible for assisting teachers in the school and have a particular responsibility towards one teaching group:

TEAM SUPPORT WORKER – EDUCATION

£12,689 per annum - 37.5 hours per week, 7:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. (from Childcare Teams into Classrooms) Mon-Fri - Term time only, plus 2 weeks *

INDIVIDUAL LEARNING SUPPORT ASSISTANT

£10,320 per annum – 34 hours per week, 9:00 a.m. – 4:15 p.m. (based in Classrooms only) Mon-Fri - Term time only

*For these roles there will also be up to a maximum of two weeks for the school's respite care provision if required, for which extra payment would be paid.

For all posts we look for candidates who are mature, practical, flexible and responsible with a patient and caring attitude to deal sensitively with vulnerable children.

We are committed to sustainability and preserving the environment and therefore encourage applications by email, so for an application form and information pack please email personnel@bradstow.wandsworth.sch.uk or you may call 01843 608727 (24 hour recruitment answer machine).

Please note that CV's will not be considered.

The closing date for all applications is 12 noon Friday 18th June 2010.

Successful candidates will need to apply for an Enhanced CRB Disclosure.
All shortlisted candidates will be expected to visit the school prior to interview.

www.bradstow.wandsworth.sch.uk

Abbey Court School

"WE GROW PEOPLE"

Abbey Court School provides a stimulating, challenging and safe learning environment where pupils and staff, efforts, work and achievement are celebrated.

We are currently looking for a

Temporary Teacher

for pupils with severe and profound learning difficulties

Starting
1st September until 31st December 2010
(fixed term contract)

MPS + 2 SEN Points

The school is located in pleasant surroundings and we have educational resources of enviable proportions.

This post would suit newly qualified teachers or those wishing to gain further experience of SEN.

Comprehensive induction and training will be provided.

Telephone enquiries and informal visits to the school welcomed.

This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of appointment for post is subject to a satisfactory Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure.

Due to the conditions and complex needs of the pupils at Abbey Court School, continuity and consistency of support is paramount and therefore candidates for all positions will need to commit to the full working hours of the post.

Closing Date: 11th June 2010

For further details and a job description, please contact
Linda Taylor, Business Manager
Abbey Court School, Rede Court Road
Strood, Rochester, Kent ME2 3SP
(Tel: 01634 338236)

Sackville School

Headmaster: Peter Lane BSc

Tonbridge Road
Hildenborough
Kent TN11 9HN

T: 01732 838888
F: 01732 836404
E: office @sackvilleschool.com
W: sackvilleschool.com

We are an Independent Secondary School looking to recruit the following teacher for Sept 2010 or soon after.

Psychology Teacher

Part-time flexible - 4 hours
To teach A-level classes, an ability to teach another subject would be welcomed, although not essential.

Closing date for applications: 18th June at midday

Interviews: Tuesday 25th June
Please contact for an application pack 01732 836400 or email susan.watkins@sackvilleschool.com

Teachers Needed

Primary, Secondary and SEN.

Capita Education Resourcing is the leading provider of educational staff throughout the UK.

Our dedicated and friendly Kent team can provide you with:

- ✔ Daily/weekly/termly supply opportunities
- ✔ Excellent rates of pay – paid weekly
- ✔ Free in-service training and CPD assessment
- ✔ Free use of resource centre
- ✔ An out-of-hours service

Even if you can only spare one day a week we would love to hear from you.

To find out more information and to register with us, please call us free on:
0800 731 6871
or email enquiry.ers@capita.co.uk

CAPITA EDUCATION RESOURCING (Agy)

Committed to equal opportunities

Highways - District of Ashford

HINXHILL ROAD, HINXHILL (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because of tree cutting and aerial replacement works on behalf of BT, the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting traffic on Hinxhill Road, Hinxhill on or after 8 June 2010 for an estimated period of 3 working days or until the works are complete.

The road will be closed between the junction with The Street and Court Lodge Farm. The alternative route for through traffic will be via The Street, A20 Hythe Road, Bockham Lane, Plumpton and Hinxhill Road.

The works will be carried out each day between the hours of 9.30 am and 3.30 pm, with the road re-opened outside these hours.

This Order will come into force 8 June 2010, will be in operation when the appropriate signs are erected, and will remain valid for up to 18 months. The Order will allow the above-mentioned restrictions to be re-implemented if required for similar works within this period.

Highways - District of Canterbury

GREENHILL GARDENS, HERNE BAY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because of gas mains replacement, the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Greenhill Gardens, Herne Bay on or after 7 June 2010 for an estimated period of 8 weeks or until the works are complete.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via via Sea Street and Cobblers Bridge Road. The works will be carried out in phases, as shown below.

The first phase will be from the junction with Cobblers Bridge Road to the junction of the cul-de-sac section of Greenhill Gardens from 7 June 2010 for up to 4 weeks.

The second phase will be from the cul-de-sac to the junction with Greenhill Bridge Road from 5 July 2010 for up to 4 weeks.

A further closure will be needed in the vicinity of the junction with Greenhill Bridge Road, to be advised.

This Order will come into force on 8 June 2010, will be in operation when the appropriate signs are displayed, and will remain valid for up to 18 months. The Order will allow the above-mentioned restrictions to be re-implemented when required for similar works, within this period.

HOMEWOOD ROAD AND SLEIGH ROAD, STURRY PROHIBITION OF DRIVING TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because of gas mains replacement, the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Homewood Road and Sleigh Road, Sturry on or after 7 June 2010, as shown below. The roads will each be closed at their junctions with Island Road.

Road name: **Homewood Road**
Date: Closed from 7 June 2010 for up to 3 weeks
Alternate route: Through traffic is via Cedar Road, Sleigh Road and Island Road

Road name: **Sleigh Road**
Date: Closed from 5 July 2010 for up to 3 weeks
Alternate route: Through traffic is via Cedar Road, Homewood Road and Island Road.

BANK STREET, HERNE BAY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because of sewer connection works, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Bank Street, Herne Bay, on or after 21 June 2010 for an estimated period of 3 weeks or until the works are complete.

The road will be closed between the junctions with Mortimer Street and High Street. The alternative route is via Mortimer Street, North Street and High Street.

The One-way Traffic Order in respect of Bank Street will be suspended to allow access.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Dartford

VARIOUS ROADS, STONE (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic and prohibiting the use of through traffic on various roads, Stone as noted in schedule 1.

The Order will become effective on 7th June 2010, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to commence 13th June 2010 and last approx 3 hours between 07.30 -10.30.
These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: as noted in the attached schedule.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate the Bluewater Sweatshop 10K

Schedule 1

Road Name: **Cotton Lane**
Extent: No Left Turn from Cotton Lane to B2228 Cotton Lane

Road Name: **Traffic prohibited travelling southbound on B2228 Cotton Lane**
Extent: Whole length
Diversion: A282 Dartford Tunnel Approach

Road Name: **Road Closed London Road**
Extent: Between its junctions with B2228 Cotton Lane to St Clements Way
Diversion: St Clements Way, Crossways Boulevard, Bob Dunn Way / A282 Dartford Tunnel Approach

GREENHITHE STATION TO INGRESS PARK (BUS LANES AND RESERVED ROUTES) ORDER 2010 PROHIBITION OF LEFT TURN (INGRESS PARK AVENUE TO GREENHITHE STATION TO INGRESS PARK BUS WAY) ORDER 2010

Notice is hereby given that Kent County Council has made the above named Order under sections 1(1) and (2), 2(1) to (3), 3(2) and 4(1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Paragraph 20 of Schedule 9 to the Act:

The first named Order introduces a bus lane for local buses only on the following length of road:-

1. Between the roundabout at the junction of B255 Station Road/A206 Crossways Boulevard and the mini roundabout 205 metre east of that junction	In both directions In a westerly direction	1. On the southern most carriageway from a point 109 metres east of the junction with B255 Station Road to the mini roundabout. 2. On the southern most lane from a point 109 metres east of the junction with B255 Station Road to a point 35 metres east of that junction
2. From a point on Ingress Park Avenue 25 metres west of the junction with Calcroft Avenue to the mini roundabout 205 metres east of Station Road.	In both directions	For the entire length

The second named Order prohibits any vehicle from making a left turn from Ingress Park Avenue to Greenhithe Station to Ingress Park Bus Way, except for emergency vehicles; or any vehicle with the permission of a police officer in uniform.

The Order was sealed on 1 June 2010 and will come into force 7 June 2010.

Full details are contained in the Order which, together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended and a statement of the Council's reasons for making the Order may be examined on Mondays to Fridays at the at Dartford Borough Council Offices, Civic Centre, Home Gardens, Dartford, DA1 1DR during normal opening times.

Any person wishing to question the validity of the Order or any of the provisions contained therein on the grounds that it is not within the powers of the relevant enabling Act or that any requirement of any such enabling Act or of any regulations made thereunder have not been complied with may within 6 weeks from the date on which the Order was made make application to the High Court for this purpose.

BOB DUNN WAY, DARTFORD (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst an event is being held on the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by Dartford Toll bound vehicular traffic on A206 Bob Dunn Way, Dartford from the roundabout at Thames Road to the A282 roundabout.

The Order will become effective on 21st June 2010, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the event is planned to take place 27th June 2010 and last approx 4.5 hours between 06.00 -10.30.
These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: Burnham Road, Victoria Road, Hythe Street, Home Gardens, East Hill, Park Road, Princes Road and A282 Canterbury Way.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate the Bridge Triathlon.

HIGHWAYS – District Of Dover

MOAT LANE & COOMBE LANE, ASH (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because of BT cabling works, the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting traffic on Moat Lane & Coombe Lane, Ash, on or after 7 June 2010 for an estimated period of 2 weeks or until the works are complete.

The roads will be closed at various points as required for the works, as signposted on site. Every effort will be made to maintain access for residents when safe to do so.
Access from Langdon Avenue into Coombe Lane may also be restricted, as shown on site. The alternative route for through traffic will be via The Street, New Street and Marshborough Road

SINGLEDGE LANE AND BEWSBURY CROSS LANE, WHITFIELD (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because of gas mains replacement, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting traffic on Singledge Lane and Bewsbury Cross Lane, Whitfield.

The Order takes effect on or after 14 June 2010. The works are planned as follows.

Road name: **Singledge Lane**
Extent: Closed between the junctions with Bewsbury Crescent and Nursery Lane
Date: From 14 June 2010 for up to 2 weeks
Alternative route: via Bewsbury Crescent and Nursery Lane

Road name: **Bewsbury Cross Lane**
Extent: Closed to the south of the southern junction with Grace Meadow
Date: From 20 September 2010 for up to 1 week

There will be no access to through traffic between the junctions with Sandwich Road and Nursery Lane, with these roads forming the alternative route.

The Order will remain valid for up to 18 months and can be re-implemented if required for works of a similar nature.

MOAT SOLE AND WOODNESBOROUGH ROAD, SANDWICH (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because of gas mains replacement, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting traffic on Moat Sole and Woodnesborough Road, Sandwich on or after 21 June 2010 for an estimated period of 16 weeks or until the works are complete.

The roads will be closed in rolling sections starting outside 18 & 20 Moat Sole working along Woodnesborough Road to the junction with Sandwood Road.

The alternative routes will be west bound via Cattle Market, Harnet Street, Strand Street, High Street, New Street and St Bart's Road; east bound via Woodnesborough Road, St Bart's Road, New Street and Cattle Market.

This Order will remain in force for up to 18 months and can be re-implemented if required for works of a similar nature.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Gravesham

B2175 LONDON ROAD, NORTHFLEET (40 MPH SPEED LIMIT) ORDER 2010

Notice is hereby given that the Kent County Council has made the above named Orders under section 84(1), (2) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, (hereinafter called 'the Act') and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with paragraph 20 of Part III of Schedule 9 to the Act,

The effect of the Order reduces the length of 40 mph speed limit on B2175 London Road to the following length of road (extending the 30 mph speed limit):

London Road (B2175)
From a point 12 metres west of the junction with Rural Vale to a point 33 metres east of the junction with Pier Road.

The Order was signed on 1 June 2010 and will come into force 7 June 2010.

Full details are contained in the Order which, together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended and a statement of the Council's reasons for making the Order may be examined on Mondays to Fridays at the offices of Gravesham Borough Council, Civic Centre, Windmill Street, Gravesend during normal opening times.

Any person wishing to question the validity of the Order or any of the provisions contained therein on the grounds that it is not within the powers of the relevant enabling Act or that any requirement of any such enabling Act or of any regulations made thereunder have not been complied with may within 6 weeks from the date on which the Order was made make application to the High Court for this purpose.

WHITEHILL ROAD, MEOPHAM (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use of vehicular traffic on Whitehill Road, Meopham from Harvel Lane to outside 'The Old Police House.'

The Order will become effective on 21st June 2010, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to last 1 day. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via:

Northbound: Harvel Lane, Harvel Road, A227 Gravesend Road, A227 Wrotham Road, The Street and Whitehill Road.

Southbound: Priestwood Road, Chandlers Road, Dean Lane and Harvel Street.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate permanent carriageway repairs.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Maidstone

STOCKETT LANE, TOVIL (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Stockett Lane from Abbey Gate Court to Little Abbey Gate House on or after Wednesday 9th June 2010 for a period of up to 5 days or until such works are completed.

The alternative route is via Straw Mill Hill, Farleigh Hill, B2010 Dean Street, New Cut, Stockett Lane.

BT apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works, which are necessary to lay ducting. Should you require any further information about these works, the contact is Leah Mellis on 01795 429800.

MARSHAM STREET, MAIDSTONE (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Marsham Street on or after Saturday 26th June 2010 for a period of up to 2 days or until such works are completed.

The alternative route is westbound traffic via Queen Anne Road, Union Street, Wyatt Street and eastbound traffic via Wyatt Street, Union Street, Albion Place, Andrew Broughton Way, A20 Ashford Road, King Street, Queen Anne Road.

South East Water Ltd apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works, which are necessary to provide a new service. Should you require any further information regarding these works, the contact is Amelia Fauklin on 01634 873084.

VARIOUS ROADS, TOVIL AND EAST FARLEIGH (50 MPH SPEED LIMIT) ORDER 2010 ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

Notice is hereby given that the Kent County Council proposes to make an Order under Section 84 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, the effect of which would be to impose a 50 miles per hour speed limit on the lengths of roads described in the Schedule hereto.

A copy of the Order, an explanatory statement and maps showing the lengths of road concerned may be inspected during normal office hours at Kent Highway Services, Network Management, Invicta House, Maidstone Kent, ME14 1XX and at the offices of Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent, ME15 6JQ

Anyone wishing to support this proposal, or to object to it, should write to Sandra Watkins, Speed Limit Review Project Manager, Jacobs Engineering UK Ltd, Miller House, Lower Stone Street, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6GB quoting The Kent County Council (Various Roads, Tovil and East Farleigh) (50mph Speed Limit) Order 2010 stating their reasons, by not later than 28 June 2010.

SCHEDULE: 50mph Speed Limit:

In the Parish of East Farleigh:

B2010 Lower Road, East Farleigh
From the Parish boundary of Tovil south-westwards to a point 11 metres north-east of the centre line of the access to "Little Court Lodge Farm"

In the Parish of Tovil:

B2010 Dean Street, Tovil
From a point in line with the common boundary of house number 143/145 Dean Street south-westwards to the Parish boundary of East Farleigh

C65 Dean Street, Tovil
From its junction with B2010 Dean Street southwards to a point 66 metres north of the centre line of the access road to "Valley Farm"

HIGHWAYS - District of Sevenoaks

KNATTS VALLEY ROAD, WEST KINGSDOWN (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic on Knatts Valley Road, West Kingsdown from its junction with Hill Lane and Knatts Lane.

The Order will become effective on 7th June 2010, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to last 1 week. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the restriction above will be via: Knatts Valley Road, Tinkerpot Lane and Knatts Lane.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate carriageway overlay.

ACCESS ROAD SEVENOAKS RAILWAY STATION INTO LONDON ROAD, SEVENOAKS PROHIBITION OF LEFT TURN (TRAFFIC REGULATION) ORDER 2010 PROHIBITION OF RIGHT TURN (TRAFFIC REGULATION) ORDER 2010

Notice is hereby given that Kent County Council has made the above named Orders under sections 1(1) and (2), 2(1) to (3) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Paragraph 20 of Schedule 9 to the Act:

The first named Order:-
Prohibits any vehicle from making a left turn from the eastern arm of the access road to Sevenoaks Station into London Road, Sevenoaks except for emergency vehicles; or any vehicle with the permission of a police officer in uniform.

The second named Order:-
Prohibits any vehicle from making a right turn from the western arm of the access road to Sevenoaks Station into London Road, Sevenoaks except for emergency vehicles; or any vehicle with the permission of a police officer in uniform.

The Order was signed on 1 June 2010 and will come into force 7 June 2010.

Full details are contained in the Order which, together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended and a statement of the Council's reasons for making the Order may be examined on Mondays to Fridays at the Council Offices, Argyle Road, Sevenoaks and at Kent Highway Services, Doubleday House, St Michael's Close, Aylesford. during normal opening times.

Any person wishing to question the validity of the Order or any of the provisions contained therein on the grounds that it is not within the powers of the relevant enabling Act or that any requirement of any such enabling Act or of any regulations made thereunder have not been complied with may within 6 weeks from the date on which the Order was made make application to the High Court for this purpose.

For further information, please contact Kent Highway Services, on 08458 247 800 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Kent Highway Services

BIRCHIN CROSS ROAD, SHOREHAM
(TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic on Birchin Cross Road, Shoreham between its junctions with Row Dow and Bower Lane.

The Order will become effective on 21st June 2010, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to last 1 day. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the restriction above will be via: Goodbury Road, Cotmans Ash Lane, Pilgrims Way East and Row Dow

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate BT works.

Highways - District of Shepway

ST JOHN'S CHURCH ROAD, FOLKESTONE
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because of gas mains replacement, the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting westbound traffic on St John's Church Road, Folkestone, between the junctions with Bournemouth Gardens and Radnor Park Road.

This takes effect from 7 June 2010 for an estimated period of up to 4 weeks or until the works are complete.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via Bournemouth Gardens, Bournemouth Road and Radnor Park Road.

B2067 ALDINGTON ROAD, LYMPNE
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because of footbridge replacement works, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting traffic on B2067 Aldington Road, Lympne, on or after 21 June 2010 for an estimated period 1 night, between the hours of 7.00 pm and 7.00 am.

The road will be closed outside Port Lympne Wild Animal Park. There is no access for through traffic between the junctions of Otterpool Lane and Harringe Lane. The alternative route for through traffic will be via Aldington Road, Lympne Hill, West Hythe Road, Lower Wall Road, Knoll Hill, Roman Road and Aldington Road.

Highways - District of Thanet

FOADS HILL, RAMSGATE
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because of works in connection with the construction of the new East Kent Access Road, the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting traffic on Foads Hill, Ramsgate on or after 7 June 2010. This is initially for an estimated period of 4 weeks. A further closure will also be necessary as advised.

The road will be closed between the junctions with Clive Road and Cliffs End Road. The alternative route for through traffic will be via Foads Hill, A299 Canterbury Road West, Lord of the Manor Interchange, A256 Sandwich Road and Cliffs End Road.

This Order will come into force on 8 June 2010, will be in operation when the appropriate signs are erected, and will remain valid for up to 18 months. The Order will allow the above-mentioned restrictions to be re-implemented when required for similar works, within this period.

VARIOUS ROADS, THANET
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because a programme of carriageway repairs and resurfacing, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting traffic on Various Roads, Thanet as shown below, on or after 14 June 2010.

Road name: **Belmont Street, Ramsgate**
Extent: Between the junction with King Street and the junction with Turner Street
Dates: Monday 14 June 2010 for 3 days between the hours of 8.30 am and 4.30 pm
Alternative route: via King Street Brunswick Street and Hardres Street

Road name: **Park Road, Birchington**
Extent: Between Quex Park Caravan Park and Somali Farm
Dates: Tuesday 15 June 2010 for 3 days, between the hours of 9.00 am and 4.00 pm
Alternative route: The alternative route is via Shottendane Road, B2050 Manston Road, Park Lane, A28 The Square, A28 Canterbury Road, Charlesworth Drive, The Parkway and Park Road.
Access will be maintained to the Caravan Park.

Road name: **Westgate Bay Avenue / St Mildred's Road, Westgate On Sea**
Extent: Roads will be closed at their intersection
Dates: Monday 14 June 2010 for 1 day
Alternative routes: **Eastbound:** via Sea Road and Westgate Bay Avenue
Northbound: from St Mildred's Road via Station Road, Roxburgh Road and Westgate Bay Avenue
Westbound: via Roxburgh Road, Station Road, Cuthbert Road, Domneva Road and Westgate Bay Avenue
Southbound: via Sea Road and Westgate Bay Avenue

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Tonbridge & Malling

MILL HALL & STATION ROAD LEVEL CROSSINGS, AYLESFORD
(PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Mill Hall and Station Road Level Crossings.

The dates and times for Mill Hall closures:

22:00hrs	Friday 11 June 2010	to	06:00hrs	Monday 14 June 2010
22:00hrs	Monday 14 June 2010	to	05:00hrs	Tuesday 15 June 2010
22:00hrs	Tuesday 15 June 2010	to	05:00hrs	Wednesday 16 June 2010
22:00hrs	Friday 02 July 2010	to	04:00hrs	Monday 05 July 2010
22:00hrs	Monday 05 July 2010	to	05:00hrs	Tuesday 06 July 2010
22:00hrs	Tuesday 06 July 2010	to	05:00hrs	Wednesday 07 July 2010
22:00hrs	Wednesday 07 July 2010	to	05:00hrs	Thursday 08 July 2010
23:00hrs	Wednesday 28 July 2010	to	05:00hrs	Thursday 29 July 2010
22:00hrs	Monday 02 August 2010	to	05:00hrs	Tuesday 03 August 2010
22:00hrs	Thursday 05 August 2010	to	05:00hrs	Friday 06 August 2010
22:00hrs	Monday 09 August 2010	to	05:00hrs	Tuesday 10 August 2010
22:00hrs	Thursday 12 August 2010	to	05:00hrs	Friday 13 August 2010

The dates and times for Station Road closures:

22:00hrs	Friday 25 June 2010	to	06:00hrs	Monday 28 June 2010
22:00hrs	Monday 28 June 2010	to	05:00hrs	Tuesday 29 June 2010
22:00hrs	Tuesday 29 June 2010	to	05:00hrs	Wednesday 30 June 2010
22:00hrs	Wednesday 30 June 2010	to	05:00hrs	Thursday 01 July 2010
22:00hrs	Tuesday 03 August 2010	to	05:00hrs	Wednesday 04 August 2010
22:00hrs	Wednesday 04 August 2010	to	05:00hrs	Thursday 05 August 2010
22:00hrs	Tuesday 10 August 2010	to	05:00hrs	Wednesday 11 August 2010
22:00hrs	Wednesday 11 August 2010	to	05:00hrs	Thursday 12 August 2010

The alternative route for Station Road is via Hall Road, A20 London Road, Rocky Hill, Broadway, St Peter's Bridge, Fairmeadow, A229 Royal Engineers Road, Running Horse Roundabout, Forstal Road, Bailey Bridge Road. There is no alternative route for Mill Hall, access will be maintained but delays are expected.

Balfour Beatty RIS Ltd apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works, which are necessary for track renewal purposes. Should you require any further information regarding these works, please contact Traffic Management Services Ltd on 01777 705053.

A228 CASTLE WAY/A228 LEYBOURNE BY-PASS, LEYBOURNE
PROHIBITION OF RIGHT TURN) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting traffic from turning right onto A228 Leybourne By-Pass from A228 Castle Way on or after Monday 7th June 2010 for a period of up to 1 day or until such works are completed.

The alternative route is to turn left onto A228 Leybourne By-Pass to the Park Road Roundabout and return via the by-pass.

Kent Highway Services apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works, which are necessary to replace traffic signal heads. Should you require any further information regarding these works, please contact Andrew Beck of Jacobs on 01622 666219.

For further information, please contact Kent Highway Services, on 08458 247 800 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Kent Highway Services

LICENSING ACT 2003
Notice of Application for review of a Premises Licence

Notice is hereby given that Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council, the Licensing Authority, intend to review the Premises Licence in respect of premises known as The Merry Boys Public House, 2 Pound Road, East Peckham, Kent TN12 5BE. The grounds for the review relate to the licensing objective of the prevention of crime and disorder.

Details of the register of record of the application can be viewed at the Tonbridge and Malling Council Offices (Licensing Dept), Gibson Building, Gibson Drive, Kings Hill, West Malling during normal office hours or on line at www.tmbc.gov.uk
Any representations from interested parties or responsible authorities must be made in writing to the Council by 24 June 2010.

It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application and the maximum fine for which a person is liable on summary conviction is a fine not exceeding £5000.

To advertise in this section
01303 817040

Town and Country Planning Acts

The Council is required to give notice of the following applications

10/01689/LBC **Moorwood Cottage Woodcock Lane, Benenden**
- Listed Building Consent: Removal of modern staircase, partitions and fittings. Construction of new partitions and relocating existing partitions on the first floor. Forming a new opening between the modern extension and historic part of the dwelling. Provision of two small rooflights on the south roof slope (LB)

10/01729/HOUSE **Ryecroft Chapel Lane, Benenden-**
Demolition of existing timber garage/car port, construction of double garage, enlarged driveway and summerhouse (CA) (LB)

10/01776/LBC **Broadfield Gate Farm Road, Bidborough-**
Listed Building Consent - Conversion of redundant agricultural building, within the curtilage of a listed property, to an annexe ancillary to the house (LB)

10/01577/HOUSE **Eleven Plus Hungershall Park, Broadwater-**
New dormer window to rear elevation and two small conservation velux roof lights to front elevation (CA)

10/01211/HOUSE **White Cottage Goudhurst Road, Cranbrook And Sissinghurst-**
Single storey side extension and internal alterations (LB)

10/01223/LBC **White Cottage Goudhurst Road, Cranbrook And Sissinghurst-**
Listed Building Consent: Single storey side extension and internal alterations, removal of dormer window and replacement with rooflights and removal of chimney stack on east elevation (LB)

10/01686/FUL **Kent Fire & Rescue Service Cranbrook Fire Station, Cranbrook And Sissinghurst**
- Replacement of appliance bay doors (CA) (LB)

10/01677/FUL **65 Mount Ephraim Royal Tunbridge Wells, Culverden-**
Erection of railings and gate to front elevation (LB) (CA)

10/01785/HOUSE **4 Manor Park Royal Tunbridge Wells, Culverden-**
Single-storey infill extension to rear elevation (CA)

10/01750/LBC **Weaversden Biddenden Road, Frittenden-**
Listed Building Consent - Replace existing cement render panels with traditional lime render panels on the north elevation (LB)

10/01777/LBC **Barn And Attached Outhouses 100M North West Of Finchcocks, Goudhurst-**
Listed Building Consent - Conversion of group of rural buildings into three residential units (Amendments to both House No.1 & House No.2 being internal layout to en-suite bathroom, reallocating of some room uses and modification of elevations) (TW/08/03078/LBC refers). Amendments – Retention of solid panels internally and weatherboarding externally to specification agreed to other parts between existing studwork and beams; Deletion of 3 glazed panels at upper level (LB)

10/01752/HOUSE **Sisley Farm Sopers Lane, Hawkhurst-**
Single-storey extension (LB)

10/01753/LBC **Sisley Farm Sopers Lane, Hawkhurst-**
Listed Building Consent - Single storey extension (LB)

10/01634/FUL **The Bell House Bayham Abbey, Lamberhurst-**
Creation of a sunken garden with decking, pergola and pond within the old swimming pool. Decking and pathways, sheds and plinth in area to north of swimming pool (LB)

10/01635/LBC **The Bell House Bayham Abbey, Lamberhurst-**
Listed Building Consent: Creation of a sunken garden with decking, pergola and pond within the old swimming pool. Decking and pathways, sheds and plinth in area to north of swimming pool (LB)

10/01704/HOUSE **West House 6 Camden Park, Park-**
Orangery to rear elevation (CA)

10/01711/LBC **12 Calverley Park Royal Tunbridge Wells, Park-**
Listed Building Consent - Repair and stabilise steps leading up to veranda (LB)

10/01606/LBC **Hazelwood Romford Road, Pembury-**
Listed Building Consent - Replacement of glazed superstructure and glazed roof, and resiting of existing external doorway (LB)

10/01585/LBC **5 Lower Green Road Royal Tunbridge Wells, Rusthall-**
Listed Building Consent - Minor modifications to single storey extension approved as part of TW/09/03523/LBC - Addition of window set to summer room and move back door (LB)

10/01715/FUL **Hollonds Farm Langton Road, Speldhurst-**
Creation of new and safe vehicle access to the fields at Hollonds Farm for agricultural purposes (LB) (CA)

(DEVPLN) Departure from the Development Plan (PROW) Affecting A Public Right of Way (CA) Affecting a Conservation Area (LB) Affecting a Listed Building (MAJOR) Major Applications (MAST) Mast Applications (EIA) Applications Accompanied by an EIA Statement.

You may view these applications on our website (www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk), at the The Old Fire Station, Stone Street, Cranbrook or at Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Tunbridge Wells. We accept comments online, by email to planningcomments@tunbridgewells.gov.uk or in writing to the address below. Comments should be made within 21 days from the date of this notice, although we may accept them after this date.

You should quote the reference and be aware that we make all comments available for inspection, placing them on the file and publishing them on the internet. We do not publish signatures, telephone numbers or email addresses on the internet.

Jim Kehoe
Head of Planning Services
Town Hall Royal Tunbridge Wells TN1 1RS
Dated: 05 June 2010

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Faster Fabia on sale again

By **STEVE LOADER**

IT HAS taken three years for Skoda to get around to following up the previous generation Fabia vRS hot hatch, so the expression 'eagerly awaited' can't be understated.

And that's just the trade; dealers couldn't get enough of a little Czech/cheque pocket rocket that was as fast as it was frugal thanks to a 130bhp diesel under the bonnet. And they couldn't source enough second-hand to satisfy demand either, especially of the final batch which usually came with leather and high spec.

However, its replacement will be a quite different beast when it arrives next month, as it will use petrol this time – the VW group's high-revving 'twin charger' 1.4-litre unit developing 180bhp.

With both turbocharging and supercharging, this develops sparkling performance across the rev range and a 0-62mph sprint in 7.3 seconds.

Importantly though for today's market, mpg can also average in the mid-40s.

The driving sensation will also be enhanced by Skoda parent VW's acclaimed twin-clutch DSG gearbox, which allows fully auto operation in boring town traffic, or full seven-speed manual selection via the shift column or steering wheel paddles when the driver wants to exploit a clear road.

The new vRS is the fastest production Fabia ever

built and available as an estate as well as a hatchback this time.

I don't rate the load-lugger's styling much so I'm curious to see how many of these 'sporting supermini estates' Skoda actually sells.

Prices are extremely competitive though, as you would expect from Skoda – a regular at or near the top in customer satisfaction polls.

The five-door hatch will be £15,700 – the estate costing an extra £795. Both come with 17-inch custom Gigaro alloys and have LED daylight running lights and full vRS body kit for a sporty appearance.

Customers can also choose an optional white or black roof with a range of body colours, including the new 'Rallye Green' inspired by the Skoda Fabia S2000 rally car.

The vRS cabin boasts figure-hugging vRS sports seats, a three-spoke multi-function steering wheel with radio controls and paddles for changing gear and MDI (Multi-Device Interface) for use with iPods and other mp3 players.

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USED CARS

AGILA

Year	Reg	Model	Eng	Dr	Colour	M/age	£
09	09	Agila Club A/c	1.2	5	Atlanta blue	6.350	7.995
09	09	Agila Club A/c	1.2	5	Steel silver	4.250	7.995
09	59	Agila Design CDTi	1.3D	5	Lemon grass	1.350	9.495
09	59	Agila Design CDTi	1.3D	5	Moroccan blue	1.266	9.495
09	59	Agila Club CDTi	1.3D	5	Steel silver	3.900	8.995
10	59	Agila Design	1.2	5	Lemon grass	2.790	8.995

ASTRA

Year	Reg	Model	Eng	Dr	Colour	M/age	£
01	51	Astra Sxi	1.6	5	Black sapphire	78.350	2.995
06	06	Astra Active	1.6	5	Ultra blue	37.000	6.995
07	07	Astra Design Auto Estate	1.8	5	Silver lightening	22.190	7.495
07	07	Astra Sri Sports hatch X pack	1.6	3	Flame red	29.810	9.995
07	07	Astra Club Auto	1.8	5	Panacotta	30.350	6.995
07	57	Astra VXR	2.0	3	Arden blue	25.000	13.995
08	08	Astra Sri	1.8	5	Black sapphire	20.100	8.995
08	08	Astra Design CDTi Auto	1.9D	5	Star silver	22.200	9.995
08	08	Astra Sxi Sports hatch	1.6	3	Silver lightening	24.300	9.695
08	08	Astra Sri X Pack	1.8	5	Black sapphire	14.575	10.495
08	58	Astra Sri CDTi X Pack	1.9D	3	Star silver	10.100	12.795
08	58	Astra Sri Ex Pack	1.8	3	Black sapphire	5.960	10.995
09	09	Astra Club	1.4	5	Silver lightening	18.218	9.495
09	09	Astra Sri CDTi X Pack	1.9D	5	Star silver	9.710	14.995
09	09	Astra Active	1.4	5	Black sapphire	9.650	9.995
09	59	Astra Active	1.6	5	Sovereign silver	4.780	10.995
09	59	Astra Sxi eco flex	1.7D	5	Sovereign silver	3.400	12.995

CORSA

Year	Reg	Model	Eng	Dr	Colour	M/age	£
04	04	Corsa Energy	1.0	3	Black sapphire	42.500	3.695
04	04	Corsa Design	1.2	5	Star silver	63.890	3.995
06	06	Corsa Sxi +	1.2	3	Flame red	57.600	4.695
06	56	Corsa Design CDTi	1.3D	5	Flame red	38.450	7.995
07	07	Corsa Design	1.4	3	Tea green	17.620	7.195
07	57	Corsa Design CDTi	1.3D	5	Star silver	37.900	7.995
09	09	Corsa Active	1.0	5	Star silver	6.270	8.475
09	09	Corsa Sxi A/c	1.2	5	Metro blue	19.970	9.495
09	59	Corsa Life CDTi	1.3D	5	Black sapphire	4.600	9.995

INSIGNIA

Year	Reg	Model	Eng	Dr	Colour	M/age	£
09	09	Insignia Tourer Exclusive	1.8	5	Black sapphire	9.300	13.995
09	09	Insignia SE CDTi Nav	2.0	4	Technical grey	19.826	14.995
09	09	Insignia Sri CDTi	2.0	5	Star silver	24.545	14.995
09	59	Insignia Sri Nav CDTi	2.0	4	Black sapphire	7.350	17.995
09	59	Insignia Elite CDTi Nav	2.0	5	Sovereign silver	6.550	22.995
09	59	Insignia CDTi ECO Exclusive	2.0	5	Silver lake	7.350	17.495

MERIVA

Year	Reg	Model	Eng	Dr	Colour	M/age	£
06	56	Meriva Life A/C	1.4	5	Steel blue	19.730	5.995
09	09	Meriva Active	1.6	5	Steel silver	10.450	9.995
09	09	Meriva Life A/c	1.4	5	Metro blue	8.320	9.295

TIGRA

Year	Reg	Model	Eng	Dr	Colour	M/age	£
07	07	Tigra Exclusive Red	1.4	2	Metro blue	32.500	8.795
09	59	Tigra Air	1.4	2	Antigua	4.425	12.995

VECTRA

Year	Reg	Model	Eng	Dr	Colour	M/age	£
07	57	Vectra Design Auto CDTi	1.9D	5	Star silver	20.400	9.995
08	08	Vectra Design	1.8	4	Panacotta	25.050	7.995
08	08	Vectra Exclusiv CDTi + pack	1.9D	5	Silver lightening	41.700	8.795
09	58	Vectra Exclusive CDTi	1.9D	5	Silver	18.325	9.495
08	58	Vectra Exclusive	1.8	5	Black sapphire	15.390	8.795

ZAFIRA

Year	Reg	Model	Eng	Dr	Colour	M/age	£
05	05	Zafira Design CDTi Auto	2.0	5	Star silver	53.000	6.495
07	07	Zafira Energy	1.6	5	Silver lightening	19.400	7.995
07	07	Zafira Energy	1.6	5	Black sapphire	28.320	7.995
08	58	Zafira Exclusive	1.6	5	Star silver	13.700	9.995

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08 58 NEW FOCUS 1-6 STYLE AUTO PAS AIR/C DEEP RED 3000 MILES £11995
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08 58 NEW CORSA 1-4 SXI AUTO PAS AIR/C 3 DR BLACK 11000 MILES £8995
08 58 NEW CORSA 1-2 CLUB AUTO PAS AIR/C 3 DR ICE BLUE 300 MILES £8995
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07 57NEW CORSA 1-4 DESIGN 3 DR AUTO PAS BLUE 9000 MILES £9495
07 57 NEW CORSA 1-4 CLUB AUTO PAS AIR/C 3 DR ULTRA BLUE 15000 MILES £7995
07 56 NEW CORSA 1-4 DESIGN 5 DR AUTO PAS SILVER 9000 MILES £7995
07 56 NEW CORSA 1-4 DESIGN 3 DR AUTO PAS BLACK 2000 MILES £7995
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07 57 DAIHATSU SIRION SE 1-3 5 DR AUTO PAS SILVER 9000 MILES £7495
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08 58 CITROEN C4 SX 5DR AUTO PAS AIR ALLOYS BLACK 1800 MILES £9995
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06 56 SCENIC DYNAMIC 16 AUTO PAS 5 DR AIR/C SILVER 16000 MILES £7995
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06 56 SCENIC DYNAMIC 16 AUTO PAS 5 DR AIR/C BLUE 22000 MILES £7995
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FIRST GEAR

Compiled by Steve Loader

Greener Beamer

BMW's cleanest and greenest 3-Series ever has completed a record-breaking journey from the UK to Munich and virtually back home – on one tank of fuel.

Filled up at the Channel Tunnel, the new BMW 320d EfficientDynamics Saloon made it to BMW's German head office city, then as far as Lille in France on the return leg – 1,013 miles in total – before needing a refuel.

This feat by motoring journalist and TV presenter Tom Ford didn't use efficient driving techniques such as coasting or deliberately slow speeds, though he switched off the air con and radio as a fuel-saving concession and stuck to normal motorway speeds. This meant an average speed of 59.3mph for the trip, with BMW's most eco-friendly 3-Series upholding its official combined figure of 68.9mpg and CO2 emissions of only 109g/km.

Ford said: "I was prepared for this car to fail in the real world. Although I did try and be careful and drive in a feather-footed manner, I did cruise at a reasonable 65ish mph on the autoroutes and autobahns.

"Think about it in the context of everyday motoring; comfortably more than 1,000 miles on one tank of diesel means just 12 fills a year for the average motorist."

Vauxhall's new flexible friend

VAUXHALL'S second generation Meriva is on sale from £15,495.

It is not only wider and longer but looks a whole lot more stylish with a distinctive stepped rear window line.

And the pièce de résistance is something in common with the latest generation Rolls-Royce Phantom and Ghost models: rearward opening back doors.

These 'FlexDoors' swing open to an angle of nearly 90 degrees, vastly improving entry and exit, but it is parents with small children who will see most benefit as they pilot the kids in and out and strap them into their various seats, boosters, and so on.

Feelgood factor of Fiat 500C

POSSIBLY the most fun convertible on sale, the Fiat 500C has won another award – this time for its Feelgood Playlist.

The playlist, in which music lovers choose top tracks to share with others, took the Automotive category at the Revolution music awards.

Music past and present is a good complement to the little Fiat hatchback, which has revived the Italian car giant's fortunes with retro-style looks that echo a 1950s/60s predecessor.

With its roll-top convertible roof and limitless customising options, the 500C version can also cut a dash for the summer: prices start at £12,265 for the 1.2 Pop.

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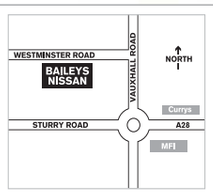

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†Price shown includes £2,000 NBBTS Discount. *Finance available subject to status. Offers available from 01/04/2010 to 30/06/2010 in the UK to persons aged 18 or over. Guarantees and Indemnities may be required. Nissan Finance, a trading style of RCI FS Ltd, PO Box 495, Watford WD17 1FJ. Terms and conditions apply to both Nissan British Built Trade In Scheme and Clear Nissan – please see www.nissan.co.uk or your nearest participating Nissan dealer for full details. The guaranteed £2,000 trade in applies to cars registered in the UK on or before 31st August 2003. Breakdown and services provided by RAC Motoring Services and/or RAC Insurance Ltd. All prices include first registration fee and first year road fund licence. Model shot shown is for illustration purposes only. Refer to dealer for exact specification. Information correct at time of going to press. This advert supersedes any previously advertised offers. Offers shown only apply to Retail sales types. Offers are available at participating Nissan dealers only. Micra shown has metallic paint at £400 inc. VAT. Models subject to availability. Nissan Motor (GB) Ltd, The Rivers Office Park, Denham Way, Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire, WD3 9YS.

by STEVELOADER

Petrol hits comeback trail with the eco Yaris

TOYOTA might lead the hybrid drive sector, but it knows where the real profits lie for now – 'greening' more conventional models.

So its UK best-seller, the three and five-door Yaris supermini (from £10,245) gained a makeover and eco-friendly 'Toyota Optimal Drive' engine technology overall to boost power while cutting emissions and ownership costs – all Yaris models now attract zero road tax in year one and £20 or £30 thereafter.

And while Toyota Optimal Drive might sound like marketing spin, it represents a package of better combustion efficiency, lower engine and transmission weight and reduced friction to deliver greater efficiency and economy.

But the stand-out powerplant in the revised range is the test car here, the new 100bhp 1.33-litre petrol engine with automatic 'Stop and Start' delivering a combined fuel consumption figure of 55.4mpg and 120g/km of CO2.

This stops the engine automatically when neutral is selected and the clutch is released, as in heavy traffic or when stopped at the lights, but restarts smoothly as soon as the clutch is depressed.

Toyota says the feature plus Optimal Drive technology enables the six-speed manual 1.33-litre to deliver some 20 per cent better fuel economy than the 1.3-litre unit it replaced.

The new engine is not only claimed to be leaner and meaner than rival 1.2-litre units, but pokier than some 1.4-litre contenders; the 1.33 delivers 35 per cent more power than the Renault Clio 1.2 and about 25 per cent more than the new Ford Fiesta and Vauxhall Corsa 1.2s.

It certainly feels more peppy and nimble and it is nice not to have the noise and weight of a diesel upfront while still getting excellent fuel consumption, though the 1.33 is not the quietest engine and the Yaris chassis is outclassed by the Ford Fiesta, new VW Polo and Vauxhall Corsa. Toyota tweaked the existing three-cylinder 1.0-litre VVT-i petrol and 1.4-litre D-4D diesel (from £11,125) Yaris units too for better combined cycle fuel consumption and emissions – 56.5mpg/118g/km and 68.9mpg/109g/km respectively. There is also a fuel-efficient six-speed MultiMode transmission available, offering either automatic or sequential manual gear changes.

Standard Yaris kit includes adjustable leather trimmed steering wheel with audio controls, electric front windows, remote central locking, rear seats with slide and recline function – and 60:40 split-fold and 'Toyota Easy Flat' one-touch folding system.

The Yaris cabin is incredibly roomy for its class, though the trade-off is a smaller boot than normal. The controls are logical but not everyone will be happy with the centrally-mounted speedo and gauges.

DrivingPortfolio

TOYOTA YARIS 1.33-LITRE TR FIVE-DOOR £12,460

Driving appeal	★★★★
Image	★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★
Running costs	★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
How Green?	★★★★
Road tax	£30/year (zero in year one)
Best rival	Ford Fiesta

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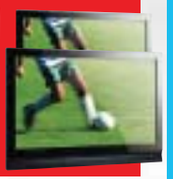

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Official fuel consumption for the SEAT Leon 1.6 TDI CR Ecomotive SE in mpg (litres per 100km); urban 60.1 (4.7); extra-urban 83.1 (3.4); combined 74.3 (3.8). CO_2 emissions up to 99g/km.

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Hot hatch and coupé style all rolled into one

DrivingReview

by STEVELOADER
CHIEF DRIVING CORRESPONDENT
steve.loader@kosmedia.co.uk

Seat Leon FR

DON'T laugh, but I bought a fairly basic Ford Sierra once.

I needed a reliable runabout and this one had been cared for meticulously. The previous owner even had a logbook showing every gallon of petrol it had used.

But it was joyless to own, with a just adequate 1.6-litre petrol engine and 'L' spec and that horribly anonymous mid-blue colour, favoured by Ford and British Leyland, dubbed 'Rep Blue' by the trade because it was a default choice for 'Sierra man' – the archetypal sales rep.

The memory came back as I surveyed the gorgeous Seat Leon FR delivered for road testing and decked out in what the Spanish Auto Emocion brand calls 'Speed Blue'.

This is rep blue reborn as a £550 option from Seat's so-called custom palette, which looks suspiciously like a range of what the trade also used to call 'base colours' ie the non-metallics.

But here's a thing; Seats invariably look great in these colours and people seem happy to pay extra to escape the grey and gloomy motoring hell that was two decades of shades of silver and grey metallic.

So there I was, faced with one of the most stunning five-door hatchbacks on the road, in Rep/Speed Blue and shod with totally appropriate wheels –18-inch Orion black alloys at an extra £510.

This is a car that turns heads and it's not even Seat's hottest Leon – the Cupra is the performance flagship.

Nevertheless, the FR looks fiery enough with its coupé-style lines – the eye is fooled by rear door handles being concealed within the door frame – and twin chromed exhausts.

And you are still being led by the nose as you grip the sumptuous stitched leather wheel with flattened alloy section at the bottom of the arc – 'FR' is neatly let into a gap in the spokes.

The upholstery also has tasteful red stitching, but then things unravel – the rest of the cabin is dull; it is durable, but the door cappings and handles look and feel cheap, the edges of the door pockets are too flexible, the centre console cup holders and stowage are poorly arranged and the dashboard is generally drab.

What a shame, especially as the Leon cabin is a practical and spacious one in spite of the sporty exterior lines.

And a shame too when the car is a born entertainer, sitting on the familiar and excellent VW Golf platform and using well-known VW powertrains, yet somehow infused with the character of Seat itself.

The test car was particular fun with its 170PS (167bhp) 2.0-litre turbodiesel mated with a six-speed/twin clutch VW DSG gearbox.

It might sound like a contradiction, but this automatic 'box is the perfect partner for a sporting car in the real world: it changes itself when you are bogged down in heavy traffic,

* Recommended on-the-road price includes delivery, 12 months Road Fund Licence, DVLA First registration Fee (at £55), and apply to the United Kingdom only.
Official fuel consumption in mpg for the Škoda range: Urban 19.2 (14.7) – 55.4 (5.1), Extra Urban 36.2 (7.8) – 78.5 (3.6), Combined 27.7 (10.2) – 67.3 (4.2). CO2 emissions (g/km) Škoda Range: 109 – 237.

but you can race through the gears yourself on a clear road by knocking the shift over and changing up and down sequentially or by using F1-style paddles on the wheel.

It's even slightly faster than the manual version, taking eight seconds to reach 62mph, and only marginally worse on fuel.

Either DSG mode is smooth and the FR's grip and handling are well-tuned, yet the chassis is no bone shaker.

Nor will this diesel version cost a packet to run; providing you use gearbox and chassis sensibly, it will average around 50mpg and attracts just £125/year in road tax – not bad for such a sporting car.

However, to spec up with the bold colour and the right alloys plus that highly attractive gearbox, you will add £2,310 to the £19,490 of our FR CR model – a lot of money when you consider that the Leon range starts at a modest £13,975.

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DrivingPortfolio

SEAT LEON 2.0TDI FR CR £19,490

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★
Value	★★★
Running costs	★★★★
Reliability	★★★★
How green?	★★★★
Road tax	£125/year
Best rival	VW Golf

TheVerdict

DON'T LIKE: dull interior – it contrasts too sharply with the Leon's sporty outline

NOT SURE: that pricing is realistic, though deals are undoubtedly available in the current market

REALLY LIKE: Leon's enduring coupé style and ability to look stunning – seemingly in any colour

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The official fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km) for the range shown are: Urban 37.2–54.3 (7.6–5.2), Extra Urban 57.6–70.6 (4.9–4.0), Combined 47.9–64.2 (5.9–4.4). The official CO2 emission figures range from 117–139g/km.
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ALFA ROMEO

147, 2.0 TS SELESPEED, 2002, abs brakes alloy wheels automatic transmission cd player electric windows immobiliser power steering remote central locking, black, 57211 miles, £3000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

GTV, 2.0 TS 16v LUSSO, 2002, alloy wheels cd player electric windows immob power steering remote central locking, grey, 59400 miles, £4000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

BMW

3 SERIES, 330d M Sport, 2005, non standard colour, 27513 miles, £29225, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

1 SERIES, 116i ES, hj57xyk, abs, immobiliser, alarm, central locking, power steering, air conditioning, stereo, electric windows, cd player, rear spoiler, stability control, adjustable steering column, rear headrests, anti-theft system, remote alarm, remote central locking, head restraints, height adjustable seat, traction control, trip computer, child locks, multiple airbags, colour coded body, metallic paintwork, electric mirrors, radio, at Big Motoring World we average over 350 bmw's in one place. visit our website for even more details. we are open 7 days a week and easily located off the m25, m26 and a20. big enough to cope, small enough to care. out of hours contact 07956 158119, red, 24022 miles, £10996, Wrotham Heath, 01732 220555 (TRADE)

3 SERIES, 335d SE Auto, 2007, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels automatic transmission cd player central locking climate control cruise control drivers airbag dvd player electric windows heated seats immobiliser leather interior multiple airbags power steering reverse parking aid satellite navigation, grey, 31173 miles, £19000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

5 SERIES, 540ise auto, 2005, black metallic with beige cloth, 56000 miles, £11950, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

5 SERIES, 520d se manual, 2006, silver metallic with grey dakota leather, 131000 miles, £9850, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

6 SERIES, M6 SMG SAT NAV, yh55pvf, full leather, satellite navigation, xenon headlamps, rain-sensing wipers, memory seats, climate control, air conditioning, alarm, anti-theft system, central locking, immobiliser, remote alarm, remote central locking, centre armrest, electric seats, head restraints, height adjustable seat, sports seats, rear headrests, adjustable steering column, cruise control, multi-function steering wheel, power steering, stability control, traction control, trip computer, abs, multiple airbags, colour coded body, front fog lamps, metallic paintwork, electric mirrors, electric windows, cd player, radio, stereo, heated seats, headlamp jetwash, powered folding mirrors, 19'' alloys, heads up display, carbon roof, i drive system, drive logic, m sport bodykit, m sport alloys, carbon sport trims. at Big Motoring World we average over 350 bmw's in one place. visit our website for even more details. we are open 7 days a week and easily located off the m25, m26 and a20. big enough to cope, small enough to care. out of hours contact 07956 158119, indianapolis red, 29511 miles, £27849, Wrotham Heath, 01732 220555 (TRADE)

8 SERIES, 840 ci sport coupe auto, 1997, silver metallic with grey leather sport seats, 121000 miles, £4950, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

Z4, 2.0 SE CONV, rj06wje, air con, alarm, anti-theft system, central locking, immob, remote alarm, remote central locking, head restraints, height adjustable seat, power steering, stability control, traction control, trip computer, abs, child locks, multiple airbags, colour coded body, front fog lamps, metallic paintwork, electric mirrors, electric windows, cd player, radio, stereo, power hood, at Big Motoring World we average over 350 bmw's in one place. visit our website for even more details. we are open 7 days a week and easily located off the m25, m26 and a20. big enough to cope, small enough to care. out of hours contact 07956 158119, black, 65574 miles, £12996, Wrotham Heath, 01732 220555 (TRADE)

Z4, 2.2 SE CONV, lf54xup, full leather, heated seats, air con, multi-function steering wheel, alarm, anti-theft system, central locking, immob, remote alarm, remote central locking, head restraints, height adjustable seat, adjustable steering column, power steering, traction control, trip computer, abs, multiple airbags, colour coded body, front fog lamps, metallic paintwork, electric mirrors, electric windows, power hood, cd player, radio, stereo, at Big Motoring World we average over 350 bmw's in one place. visit our website for even more details. we are open 7 days a week and easily located off the m25, m26 and a20. big enough to cope, small enough to care. out of hours contact 07956 158119, blue, 50615 miles, £11997, Wrotham Heath, 01732 220555 (TRADE)

FIAT

500, 1.2 Lounge 3dr Hatch, gk59vjg, pas, abs, remote central locking, front electric windows, radio/cd, side airbags, electric door mirrors, drivers airbag, space saver spare wheel, isofix child seat anchor points, body coloured bumpers, audio remote control, silver metallic, 2444 miles, £9995, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 549766 (TRADE)

500, 16v, 2008, blue, 6654 miles, £14000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

500, 16v, 2008, black, 7811 miles, £14000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

BRAVO, 1.9, 2008, blue, 55 miles, £16100, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

BRAVO, 2.0 MULTIJET 165 SPORT, 2009, abs brakes alloy wheels bluetooth car kit cd player climate control diesel electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering sports seats tonneau cover trip computer front passenger air bag deactivation switch remote central locking remote audio controls, red, 9531 miles, £12000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

BRAVO, 1.4, 2008, blue, 55 miles, £16000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

DOBLO, Multijet Active, 2010, abs brakes diesel electric windows immobiliser mp3 player multiple airbags trip computer remote central locking, various, 6 miles, £12800, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

DOBLO, Multijet Active, 2009, abs brakes alarm fitted cd player diesel electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering trip computer remote central locking remote audio controls, grey, 1000 miles, £7995, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

DOBLO, Active, 2007, abs brakes cd player electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint power steering trip computer remote central locking, red metallic, 26000 miles, £6000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

GRANDE PUNTO, 2008, silver, 6522 miles, £14500, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

GRANDE PUNTO, 2008, cd player drivers airbag, blue, 255 miles, £14500, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

HONDA

ACCORD, 2.2 i-CTDi EX, 2007, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player central locking climate control cruise control diesel electric windows front fog lights full service history heated seats immobiliser metallic paint leather interior multiple airbags power steering tinted glass curtain airbags remote central locking, flint grey, 45294 miles, £11000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

ACCORD, i-VTEC Executive, 2005, abs brakes alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser power steering, silver, 50810 miles, £6995, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

ACCORD, 2.2EXEC SATNAV/HFT, 2008, abs brakes alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player central locking climate control cruise control diesel electric windows front fog lights full service history immobiliser metallic paint power fold mirrors leather interior multiple airbags remote central locking, nighthawk black, 16000 miles, £14500, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

ACCORD, 2.2 i-CDTi EX, 2007, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player climate control diesel drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights full service history heated seats immobiliser metallic paint mp3 player leather interior power steering trip computer remote central locking remote audio controls, bronze, 21051 miles, £13500, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

CIVIC, 1.8ES, 2008, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player central locking cruise control drivers airbag electric windows full service history immobiliser metallic paint power fold mirrors, galaxy grey, 25000 miles, £10500, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

NISSAN

ALMERA, 1.5, 2008, abs brakes alarm fitted cd player central locking electric windows immobiliser, black, 89 miles, £8200, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

ALMERA, 1.5, 2008, red, 44 miles, £8000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

ALMERA, 1.5, 2008, blue, 44 miles, £8100, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

ALMERA, 1.5, 2008, red, 56 miles, £8000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

NOTE, 1.6, 2008, black, 55 miles, £15000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

NOTE, 1.6, 2008, black, 55 miles, £14000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

NOTE, 1.6 SVE, 2007, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player electric windows full service history immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering tonneau cover remote central locking, copper, 61000 miles, £6000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

QASHQAI, 2.0, 2008, blue, 52 miles, £25100, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

X-TRAIL, 2.0, 2008, grey, 89 miles, £29100, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

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2006 06 Reg SAAB 9-3 1.9TiD Linear, 4 Dr, Manual, Saloon, Diesel, , 70,763 miles, Metallic BLUE,. ABS, Air conditioning, Radio/CD, Alloy wheels, Multi function steering wheel, Full Service History, Immobiliser, Full electric pack, Passenger airbag, Remote central locking, Drivers airbag, Service indicator, Space saver spare wheel, Alarm, PAS, Trip computer, Anti theft system, Child locks. Bluetooth phone connection....**£6,495**

SAAB 9-5 2.0T SE , 5 Doors, Manual, Estate, Petrol, 2000 X Reg , 118,000 miles, Metallic blue, 2 Owners. Rear wiper, Heated door mirrors, Height adjustable drivers seat, ABS, Passenger airbag, Roof rails, Radio/CD, Rear headrests, Steering wheel reach adjustment, 3x3 point rear seat belts, Cruise control, Folding rear seats, Alloy wheels, Immobiliser, Front electric windows, Electric door mirrors, Rear electric windows, Audio remote control, Front head restraints, Front fog lights, Remote central locking, Leather seat trim, Drivers airbag, Computer, Trip computer, Electric windows, Alarm, Front armrest, Service indicator, Headlight washers, Rear armrest, Radio/Cassette, Traction control, Climate Control, Body coloured bumpers, PAS, Air conditioning, Anti theft system, Leather upholstery, Multi function steering wheel, Power assisted steering, Remote locking. Insurance Group:13E, New Fully Reconditioned Engine fitted by us. New Clutch. **£3,495**

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INSIDE THIS WEEK

PERSONALITIES are the spice which sprinkles across our business community providing a taste suited to some and dreaded by others.

This week the focus of our Big Interview is just one of those figures. Simon Hume-Kendall made his millions in oil and shipping before returning to Kent to invest locally.

Having owned the Hop Farm in Paddock Wood he now has his eyes set on some major investments in both the east and west of the county.

We find out at what makes him tick.

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High-speed service jumps on board bid for 2018 World Cup

EUROSTAR has thrown its backing behind England's stop-start bid to land the right to host the Fifa World Cup in 2018.

The high-speed passenger train service confirmed it was the latest brand to commit to supporting the bidding process by signing up as what is known as a 'Tier 2' sponsor.

Tier 2 sits below the main commercial partners of Morrisons, British Airways, Umbro, PriceWaterhouseCoopers and BT.

Eurostar will now join the ranks of support organisations which include publisher Haymarket, power firm npower, and communications giants Weber Shandwick.

It further boosts Eurostar's sports portfolio which recently saw it become a Tier 3 sponsor – and take on the title of 'international rail services provider' – for London 2012, in a deal struck with the London Organising Committee for the Olympic Games.

Eurostar's links to the Continent makes the fit straightforward – and could boost towns on its route – among them Ashford and Ebbsfleet.

Eurostar's commercial director, Nick Mercer, said: "With London directly linked to the European high-speed network it is a complete no-brainer that Eurostar should become a partner in Fifa's England 2018 bid.

"Eurostar excels at carrying large numbers of people city centre to city centre.

"Access to the candidate host cities by rail is easy from St Pancras International being next door to King's Cross and with main London stations linked by Underground. Eurostar is also able to respond quickly to demand and run extra services or indeed special charters."

Involvement

England 2018 Bid's CEO Andy Anson said: "The fact that England is easy to get to and easy to get around is an important selling point of our bid.

"Eurostar is a fitting example of our world-class transport system and we are delighted to be working with them for the remainder of this campaign."

The news will be a boost to a bid suffering from a recent scandal which threatened to derail it.

Lord Triesman – then head of the bid and chairman of the Football Association – was exposed in a national newspaper apparently suggesting some of the bidding team's rival nations were trying to fix matches.

Although Fifa has confirmed it will investigate the claims, the negative tactics have reflected poorly on the 2018 bidding team's efforts.

Football fans in Kent will already be aware of Eurostar's involvement at a more local level.

It recently extended its sponsorship of Ebbsfleet United – formerly Gravesend & Northfleet – for a fourth consecutive year. This despite the club losing its Blue Square Premier Conference status after suffering relegation.

Ebbsfleet is the main Kent terminal for Eurostar.

As part of its London 2012 sponsorship activity, Eurostar will be hosting a Tri-City-Athlon on September 14 – swimming in Paris, biking in Brussels and running in London – all linked by Eurostar and to be completed in one day.

SIGNED UP: Eurostar has confirmed it will become a Tier 2 sponsor for Engalnd's World Cup bid

Could scandal put an end to football coming home?

A MONTH ago the England 2018 bid was ticking along quite nicely. With some 50 years since the nation last hosted the tournament, and a high-profile failed bid to host the 2006 bid, many suspecting this could be England's turn.

Yet while the stadia are in place, and memories of the success of Euro 96 still relatively fresh in people's memories, Fifa's executive committee may well frown upon the recent scandal of Lord Triesman who seemed to suggestion corruption on the part of Spain and Russia in fixing match outcomes.

It was a poorly timed story which did huge harm to the bid's reputation.

Spain is jointly bidding with Portugal, as are Holland and Belgium; Russia also goes head-to-head with the USA and Australia.

For the past two World Cups, Fifa implemented a continent rotation policy – the first awarding Africa 2010 and the second South America in 2014. South Africa and Brazil, respectively, emerged triumphant.

That, however, was scrapped in 2007, but the two previous continents can not bid again for the next two World Cups. The 2018 and 2022 World Cups will both be awarded at a Fifa meeting in Zurich this December.

England should remain confident though.

It has a domestic game the envy of the world, and world-class stadia already in place. The London 2012 Olympics will greatly enhance the infrastructure for such major events, too.

The bigger question is more likely to be whether Fifa would prefer to push into territories previously unchartered – and therefore potentially more lucrative, such as Australia; make another bid to turn the US onto the sport; or capitalise on the hunger for the sport in Europe.

The reality, is that, as ever, it is likely to hinge as much on a political and financial motive than one made purely for the love of the game.

Like the Olympics, the financial knock-on effect for the host nation can be considerable, while the tournament continues to deliver a huge surge in the UK even when hosted elsewhere.

Comment

WITH the economy so fragile and in need of some tender loving care right now the World Cup's arrival on the scene can be nothing other than a useful shot in the arm.

Because while England may prove to still be a long way from world beaters, and our players overpaid and under-performing, the fact we will all be glued to our screens and fully engaging with the event will, once again, prove the World Cup is a commercial godsend.

The feelgood factor so often talked about will be very apparent as we, as a nation, hold our breath and pray it doesn't all go to penalties.

Even if England's stay in South Africa is limited to just the first two weeks of the tournament then the boost to the economy will remain immense.

Supermarkets will see their tills ringing, pubs and clubs will see profits rising as we celebrate or drown our sorrows, electrical outlets will see a surge in sales of such luxury consumables as high-definition television sets.

And crucially, if we do well, we will all feel like spending again. And if we spend again – albeit for just two short weeks – well, the fragile economy will be strengthened by it.

It is easy to mock it, or understate it, but the economy will take pretty much any positive it can right now. After all, an England success – if only by scraping wins against the minnows of Algeria – may be one of the few perks we get this year.

Of course, there's a flip side to all of this, too. Employers find themselves walking a fine line in terms of ensuring maximum productivity during these difficult periods and employees' preoccupation with what will be playing out in the stadia of South Africa.

There will be the issue too, of staff throwing 'sickies' to watch the games.

Yet a firm, but fair approach – ideally with the issues addressed in good time with staff, and seen to be handled fairly for those non-football following employees – should hopefully ensure positive outcomes all round.

And who knows… if England win, our businesses may be spared the inevitable disappointment of a penalty shoot-out come the end of the next financial year.

STEVE LOADER, BUSINESS EDITOR

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Flybe's new daily Manchester flight boost for Manston

FIRST it was Edinburgh, and now Manchester has been added to the schedule at Manston.

As bagpipes sounded to the launch of the first-ever flight to Edinburgh from Manston last week, domestic airline Flybe confirmed it was to roll out a year-round service to Manchester.

Running six-days a week, one-way fares will cost from £24 including taxes and charges. The services will take off on September 6.

The news will come as a further boost to the airport which continues to be positioned as something of a potential savour to the whole of Thanet as it looks to breathe new life into that part of east Kent.

Crucially, it becomes a further player in the county's enviable transport links.

Ironically, while the Continent is now easily accessible, it is services within the UK and those provided by the high-speed rail service slashing times into London and offering routes direct to St Pancras, which is fuelling much commercial interest in the county both as a place to do business and from which to be based.

PIPED ON BOARD: Manston officials celebrate last month's launch of the first-ever flight to Edinburgh which will be joined by a Manchester service

Evidence

Coming out of the recession, business leaders have long since pointed to the importance of the county being ready to fire on all cylinders when the economic situation eases.

The new service will be operated by the airline's Bombardier Q400 aircraft and, say officials for the airline, reinforces Flybe's commitment to Kent and to its presence at Manston.

Mike Rutter, Flybe's chief commercial officer, said: "This additional service, coming so soon after the launch of our new Scottish route, is further evidence of our commitment to Manston and reiterates our contribution to assisting the airport's future growth."

Tom Wilson, chief executive of Infratil Airports Europe, the owner and operator of Manston, said: "Flybe's decision to add a daily service between Manston and Manchester is fantastic news and a vote of confidence, not only in the airport and the people that work here, but also in Kent as a short break destination.

"The sales for the flights to Edinburgh has shown that there is strong latent demand from across Kent for flights from a hassle-free regional airport like Manston and Flybe's decision recognises that commercial reality.

"We are confident that business and residents in the county will vote with their feet when looking to travel to Manchester and choose Flybe from Manston, rather than driving or going by train."

To see this search 'Manston' @ yourkenttv.co.uk

Julie Maddocks is at Manston as Flybe's latest service takes to the sky

Increase

When the Manston-Edinburgh route was announced in February, it was anticipated that Flybe would operate five flights per week in the winter season.

However, demand has lead the airline to increase this and it will now operate a daily year-round service on the route.

Flybe, which is the UK's number one domestic airline, operates up to 3,214 flights a week on 143 key routes, with the Manston operations being one of 15 new routes for the 2010-11 season, together with 10 popular European ski routes.

Rail freight buyout by Eurotunnel

EUROTUNNEL has bought the third largest British rail freight operator, GBRf, from international transporter FirstGroup plc.

Eurotunnel chief executive Jacques Gounon said: "Eurotunnel has always been a major link between the UK and France. The acquisition of GBRf is a further expression of our commitment to the United Kingdom and of our confidence in the potential that it holds.

"Growing concerns about the environment and the increasing need for freight transport over both long and short distances mean that rail freight is a buoyant market."

Eurotunnel says the acquisition, completed without any increase in debt, is in line with its development strategy which aims to develop a leading position in the European rail freight market in the future.

The UK rail freight market has seen an annual growth between 1995 and 2008, averaging four per cent.

London-based GBRf was created by its current managing director, John Smith, who made the company one of the most efficient in the sector.

GBRf is a profitable business employing 299 people, and it generated £56 million revenue in 2009.

Its customer list includes Bombardier, British Gypsum, EDF Energy and DRAX.

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WESTWOOD Cross is undergoing a major investment programme as it approaches its fifth birthday.

The Thanet shopping centre is ploughing thousands of pounds into upgrading major stores on the site.

Next, one of the centre's flagship stores, is undergoing a revamp of all departments which will be finished by the end of the month. The 02 store has recently been upgraded; fashion outlet New Look has just started a major refit, and Costa Coffee will taking on a fresh image in the coming weeks.

Additionally, plans are in hand for the opening of a branch of the international chain of health stores Holland & Barrett.

Tracie Stevens, marketing manager at Westwood Cross, said: "The investment our retailers are making in their stores is a tremendous vote of confidence in the centre."

BUSINESS drivers in the UK are losing out on more than £440 million by driving with the under-inflated tyres.

The research by tyre giant Michelin discovered that not only are motorists letting poor tyre pressure affect their bank balance, but more than 370 million litres of fuel are being wasted each year.

Michelin's head of communications Peter Snelling said: "Based on the findings of Michelin's 2009 campaign, if all of the cars in the UK were running on correctly inflated tyres then motorists would save more than £440m and more than 370 million litres of fuel a year.

"As a result, CO2 emissions would also be reduced by almost one million tonnes."

To try and combat the problem the Michelin Fill Up With Air team is taking to the road to offer free tyre checks.

A PRINTING company has won a coveted environmental award.

Orpington-based Stralfors UK scooped a Sustainable Environment Award at the Severnside Achievement in Recycling Awards. And the firm was keeping illustrious company, as the other winners included Tesco, Next, Marks and Spencer, Morrissons and Mothercare.

The award was in recognition of Stralfors commitment to sustainable business systems across its sites in Kent and Cornwall, as demonstrated by a six-figure annual saving achieved by investments in environmental best practice.

Rob Norwell, Stralfors UK environment and compliance manager, said: "We will continue to share information, knowledge and best practice in order to identify improvements across all of our operations."

MORE efficient ways of working at Faversham brewery Shepherd Neame have been recognised with an award for Best Improvement Project (under 90 days) at this year's Process Excellence Awards.

The award was given for the brewery's inventory reduction project in wines and spirits, which halved the inventory and also increased product availability.

The project served as a trial in the roll-out of other improvement schemes across the business.

Shepherd Neame fought off fierce competition from large organisations such as BAA, Scottish Widows and ScottishPower to scoop the business accolade.

BATHROOM outlet Ripples Tunbridge Wells has recruited a new designer. Siobhán Ferrie has previously worked on set and costume design within the theatre and film industry in Europe. She joins staff at the showroom on Eridge Road in the Pantiles.

The new recruit said: "The bathroom is becoming more of a centrepiece in the home with a greater emphasis on relaxation, dramatic lighting and technology."

DISH OF THE DAY: The restaurant plays a key role in plans for Folkestone's regeneration

Design for £2 million restaurant is revealed

THIS is the latest piece in Folkestone's regeneration jigsaw.

These are planning pictures for an ambitious £2 million seafood restaurant to be built on the town's harbur.

The 430 sq m design was drawn by local practice Guy Hollaway Architects on behalf of the Folkestone Harbour Company.

The Folkestone Harbour Company is owned by Roger De Haan, the former Saga chairman and the man dedicated to financing a major rebirth of the town. It was unveiled as part of the master plan for the seafront regeneration as unveiled by Sir Terry Farrell recently.

Destination

Council chiefs at Shepway have given the building the green light, while plans for the wider development are due to be submitted next year.

The striking contemporary building, which will house a restaurant and bar, will cantilever out over the town's harbour. It will replace the existing Cabin Café and Jetty's Bar.

Large terraces will be created along the length of the ground and first floors, and top quality seafood and locally-caught fish will be served.

It is hoped it will provide a key stone in making the harbour a destination venue for both locals and visitors.

A large glazed façade will allow passers-by to see into the kitchen and out through to the harbour, while the ground floor is raised to mitigate the effects of possible flooding.

It is hoped the building will be completed by spring 2011 in time to be ready for business for the Folkestone Triennial – the contemporary arts exhibition held in the town every three years.

Architect Stiff & Trevillion is working with Guy Hollaway on the project. It will be built by Canterbury's Cardy Construction.

CONSULTATIONS continue this month into the proposals put forward by leading architect Sir Terry Farrell for the rejuvenation of Folkestone Harbour and seafront.

Public meetings will be held at Quarterhouse, 45 Tontine Street, Folkestone, on Monday, June 14 at 7pm and Saturday, June 26 at 11am

Places at each presentation are free, but should be reserved by telephoning the box office at Quarterhouse on 01303 858500 (answer phone out of hours) or by emailing info@quarterhouse.co.uk.

Meanwhile an exhibition concludes this week on the plans. Staged at 3-7 Tontine Street, it is open from 10am-4pm each day until Wednesday, June 9.

An online summary of the proposed approach is available at www.folkestone-seafront.com.

Those visiting in person or online are able to fill in a questionnaire giving their opinion on the proposals.

Recycling firm is up for award

SANDWICH-based TW Services has been shortlisted for Construction Recycler of the Year in the National Recycling Awards, going head-to-head with some of Britain's biggest names in construction.

The company's 95 per cent recycling rate propelled the construction waste specialist to the shortlist, putting it alongside large, well-known companies BAM Nuttall, Bovis Lend Lease, Clancy Docwra, and Skanska.

Director Spencer Ray, says: "TW Services' nomination is a real vindication of our family firm's high standards.

"We are recycling more than 95 per cent of the 400,000 tonnes of construction waste we can handle – and that 95 per cent is a no-quibble, audited figure."

Mr Ray says that as a result of the company's recycling efforts, TW Services is able to supply more than 280,000 tonnes of recycled materials back into the Kent construction industry each year.

The company was set up in 1995, by the Ray family – Les and Lorraine and their sons Spencer and Wesley – to provide reliable and cost-effective waste management services.

The company has bucked the trend in the recession-hit construction sector by experiencing strong growth.

It now employs 60 skilled staff with an extensive range of modern plant and equipment at its waste processing facility at Richborough. And it is set for further expansion with more investment and jobs planned in the future.

The 2010 National Recycling Awards, organised by MRW, reward and support the efforts of public and private sector achievements in recycling and waste management.

The awards focus on local authorities and public organisations as well as the construction and retail sectors. Winners will be announced at a ceremony at the Hilton Hotel, Park Lane, London on Thursday, July 15.

Judges' impressed by students' Beauty Bible

FIVE teams of Young Entrepreneurs from Folkestone Academy were put through their paces last week as they pitched their innovative business ideas to a panel of seven industry professionals.

The competition is run by the Education Business Partnership and encourages students to discover a gap in the market for a new product or service.

Among the ideas students came up with were: Bright Eyes – a multi-tool torch; Mini N – a new Ninja action figure; Multi Scorer – a multi-use sports goal for schools; Phone Finder – a musical charm to help locate lost mobile phones; and Beauty Bible – an organic cosmetics recipe book.

A spokesman for the school said: "The standard of the presentations this year was incredibly high and the students managed to keep their wits about them, answering all the questions thrown at them by the judges."

However, after lengthy deliberations the judges announced the winning team as Beauty Bible, with their innovative concept for a recipe book, enabling customers to make organic make-up and beauty products in their own home. The judges thought this unique concept had a real chance of success in today's market place.

The girls will now go away and work on improvements to their product and their presentation with the rest of their team before joining winners from other local schools to compete for a place in the South East final later this year.

Simon Himbury, head of ICT and law, added: "Our Year 10 finalists demonstrated great imagination, initiative and confidence in coming up with and presenting their exciting ideas."

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'My Business Week…'

by JO JAMES, chief exec of Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce for Ashford, Canterbury, Maidstone, Sevenoaks, Tonbridge & Malling and Tunbridge Wells

TUESDAY: Need motivation this morning, bank holidays always leave you wanting more.

Not a typical week ahead, less meetings and more time to spend on strategic planning.

Spent the morning working on the plan for 2010-13, as it has to be finalised ready for the Chamber's board meeting at the end of the month.

Difficult time to strategically plan when the country is in a period of uncertainty and business needs continually changing.

Still, as always, let's just continue doing our own thing, regardless of government intervention we will continue to offer free support to businesses. Left advisors to look at how to fund this, too much for me, still trying to cope with being back in the office.

WEDNESDAY: Feeling much more motivated today. I'll need the energy too, as I have a day looking at the needs of students, teachers and business.

An interesting meeting in the morning looking at a careers fair for students and businesses in the Ashford area.

Spent the afternoon again working on the strategic plan.

Met with our Young Chamber team to discuss the future of Young Chamber and how we can make it sustainable. I like the Young Chamber as it bridges gap between education and business.

Like any business though, I have to look at how it's going to be financed.

THURSDAY: Attended the Canterbury Innovation Centre Steering Group in the morning; good to hear the centre is going from strength to strength.

Lunchtime met with Carole Barron of the University of Kent to look at training provision and how the university can help support Kent businesses. Very positive.

Afternoon met with local authority to talk about ways of encouraging Kent companies to export and what we can do to support them. This was very productive as export services are key to my strategic plan. Then back to office to put together agenda for next week's Backing Kent Business meeting.

FRIDAY: Spoke with fellow Chamber CEOs in the South East looking at joint working to provide a more comprehensive range of international services, followed by a meeting at KCC to discuss European funding opportunities to assist Kent companies to export.

This afternoon looking at membership services. What are we going to be offering members over the next three years and what we will do to continue to grow our membership and make it a must for Kent businesses.

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SIMON HUME-KENDALL

HE has been called one of the most powerful businessmen in Kent, with a self-made fortune and a keen business mind.

But Simon Hume-Kendall claims to be a man at peace with himself.

A happy home life and thriving local investments, he runs Bewl Water and is a key figure in political circles.

Yet his mission is far from over. **CHRIS BRITCHER** meets the man who has his eye on splashing out more millions on sites across the county – particularly his home town of Tunbridge Wells and the regeneration area of Thanet…

KOS media BUSINESS WEEK THE BIG INTERVIEW

WERE there to be a row of metaphorical pies lined up across the business spectrum, then Simon Hume-Kendall would have so many fingers in them it would be difficult for him to find a spare digit with which to point.

A former shipping magnate, he today owns property, hotels, leisure attractions – his Kent Attractions company runs Bewl Water and Lamberhurst Vineyard – is involved in a Football League club, was once a senior figure in a major national media organisation, and is a senior figure in the local Conservative Party.

Little wonder then he is often dubbed one of the county's most powerful businessmen.

What's more, he shows no signs of slowing, admitting he is actively seeking to plough millions of pounds into a number of ventures from his home town of Tunbridge Wells – he lives in nearby Lamberhurst – to Thanet, where he very much subscribes to the isle's claim of being a sleeping giant in the South East's commercial and tourism jigsaw.

Crucially, in an era when banks still hesitate before committing to lend, Mr Hume-Kendall, 56, is a self-made millionaire with cash in the bank and a host of tangible, bricks and mortar assets.

He may shy away from revealing the full extent of his wealth, but it is fair to say he has a few quid tucked away, built on a bedrock of original investment in the oil and shipping industries which allowed him to retire from the sector at the relatively tender age of 44, having seen the business rocket from nothing to eventually sell for billions of dollars.

"I've never made a considerable fortune compared to a lot of people because I've always diluted my interests to lessen my risks and spread my investments," he explains as he strolls around his highest-profile Kent business – Bewl Water.

"I've always been quite risk averse. I've prepared to share my equity on the bigger assets.

"It's like a real-life Dragons' Den. You can give away a lot of what you're doing because then you get the benefit of all this wisdom and contacts."

It's a strategy which has served him well and which means he is not adverse to entering more joint ventures as he looks to develop his local portfolio.

He admits he is actively in the hunt to buy the Pantiles in Tunbridge Wells – the Georgian shopping parade currently owned by property firm Targetfollow, but the subject of much speculation about its future – and the former ABC cinema site which sits, abandoned, in the centre of the spa town since previous efforts to transform it into a key commercial and leisure hub fell victim to the slump in the property market.

It returned to the market this week with an £8 million price tag.

And he is seeking "considerable" investment within Thanet which he speaks about in terms his Tory chums at Kent County Council would consider very much the party line.

"We're in very significant investment programme now," he admits.

"We're working closely with county and local authorities to provide funding of a very significant nature.

"As this new government pushes to release government-owned properties into the private sector, we intend, in the areas we know best, to see if we can't create opportunities in which everyone can participate. So we're looking at very, very sizeable investments in this area.

"Our name continues to be linked with the Pantiles and cinema site in Tunbridge Wells and sites in east Kent and Thanet and we don't serve to deny any of those rumours.

"We're interested in investing in Kent and East Sussex."

Simon Hume-Kendall has spent all his life in and around west Kent.

Born in the area, his father "was a doctor who came from a family of doctors. My grandfather a lawyer and ditto with him".

Yet his father died aged just 40 when Hume-Kendall was 14 leaving, he says, "no money".

Determined to succeed, and given a good education, the young Hume-Kendall studied history at King's College, London where he was to meet someone who would forever change his life.

Because it was there a friend introduced him to the marine insurance business. He would join insurance giant Lloyds straight from university.

"There I met the sons of lots of the big ship-owning families," he explains, "who would send their

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sons to pick up the various disciplines in their business and after six or seven very exciting years in Lloyds I decided to give ship-owning a try myself.

"I teamed up with a young Norwegian who worked for Fred Olson – of the eponymous company – and we started building an off-shore drilling and liquid petroleum gas business.

"We bought rigs in the North Sea and Asia and a few gas carriers and built a London-based fleet. We then took over the very old British shipping company Common Brothers which had a very large fleet.

"We built that up over the next 10 years. Then I decided I wanted to run completely my own show which spawned Burren Energy which we would eventually sell to the Italian government for $3.5 billion in 2008.

"Shipping is rather like property yet more so. It is a business where an individual, even in those days, could buy the hardware for a ship for many millions of dollars with many banks' support as long as you could find guaranteed employment for that ship.

"So it was a case of putting that critical asset to good use with a substantial owner. So for a tanker to go to a major oil company, for example.

"Even the small ships cost $10m upwards. You needed to secure equity investment or guarantees from the financial world and leave yourself with a little bit of opportunity to create equity if value was derived from the ships.

"With the property market, which moves slowly up and down, shipping has very sharp peaks and troughs. If you hit the market right you could double your money in a year or two.

"So if you had $10m in play there were plenty of opportunities to double that to $20m plus. But then just as many chances to post a $10m loss.

"And we had plenty experience of both. But to the outside world it was all rather mesmerising.

"In Britain, to see private individuals play with such huge assets is very unusual especially as we were both under 30 when we started. In Greece, for example, it was nothing unusual.

"At the beginning it was very exciting. These ships aren't like being an investment banker when you can make more money, but you're just shuffling papers around.

"You actually have the hardware to gaze at and be mesmerised by – or horrified by – depending on your proclivity. I've always dealt only in physical assets and ownership of those.

"When we sold our first shipping company in 1997 for a very large amount to a number of international institutions, I retired and moved to the country here, but wanted to involve myself in local industry."

And so he launched the English Wine Group – a venture he remains involved in although is no longer a director. "We followed the same pattern," he explained.

"We invested in the primary company, acquired the assets of the vineyard and got the business going and bought in a CEO.

"Now it is a fabulous little business, brilliantly run by Frazer Thompson."

BEWL Water appeals to the fisherman in him (he admits the sport is his passion) and he has invested considerable sums into building up the leisure business which surrounds the picturesque reservoir in Lamberhurst.

Yet when speaking to the businessman it is clear he has no intention of slowing down and his motivation remains constant.

He said: "Money has never been a great motivator to me. I've always had a very nice life with what I've had.

"It's obviously nicer to have a car that starts than one that doesn't, to take the taxi rather than the Tube and to holiday somewhere hot than stay at home.

"But motivation has always been the excitement of the ownership of assets – I've owned, hotels, vineyards, boats, whatever element I like to own tangible assets.

"It gives me infinitely more fulfilment thinking I own something rather than recycling paper. It's the ownership of the hardware.

"If someone asked me would I like to start an internet company nothing could interest me less."

As for the future?

His goals, he claims, are wider than personal gain.

He says: "If you look at my CV I own a fair amount of property, I've had yachts, an estate in Scotland, homes across Europe, a family I don't want to change, and an immensely happy home life.

"As a passionate fisherman I can walk 20 yards out of my house and start fly-fishing. So I've scratched most itches.

"All I want to see now is private enterprise thrive."

SIMON HUME-KENDALL'S CV

- 1974 – joined Sedgwick Forbes marine division before becoming a director at Seascope Group (Shipping Services Corp), then a partner at Norex Corp.
- 1981 – became a director at Common Brothers plc, one of Britain's oldest quoted ship-owning companies, and organised a reverse takeover of the company by Norex Corp
- 2003 – formed Lamberhurst Holdings Limited as a vehicle to hold a number of property and leisure investments.
- 2006 – bought The Hop Farm in Paddock Wood and created Kent Attractions LLP which acquired Lamberhurst Holdings leisure-based assets, including the Smart and Simple Hotel in Tunbridge Wells.
- 2007 – acquired Bewl Water from Southern Water and then deciding that the businesses were being taken in too diverse a direction, sold the Hop Farm.

SIMON'S TOP TIPS

As with all businessmen, there are those who praise and criticise Mr Hume-Kendall's methods in equal measure.

Yet the businessman says he builds his business approach cautiously and would advise anyone looking to follow in his footsteps to consider their attitude carefully.

He says: "Whatever walk of life you are in, try not to be an Alan Sugar. It is possible to be successful by losing your temper a lot and being aggressive, but I think there is a better way.

"And that is be highly respectful, whether you want to do business or get people to work for you or not – but to treat them properly.

"You get a similar end through much more pleasant means. You build a nicer reputation and people want to do business with you."

Going extra mile pays dividends

A TRAVEL agency in Sevenoaks has won a prestigious mystery shopper award from a leading trade title.

Billington Travel scooped the gong from travel trade magazine Travel Weekly. It won after beating other agents in the area in meeting the mystery shopper challenge of recommending a trip for two to Argentina including dance classes.

Each week a Travel Weekly mystery shopper calls on agents across the UK and assesses their performance in meeting a brief with a judging criteria of agency appearance (15 per cent), brochure racking, (10 per cent), product knowledge (25 per cent), sales technique (25 per cent) and staff attitude (25 per cent). Billington scored an impressive 85 per cent.

Owner of the outlet, David Carter, said: "This award is recognition of our strength in tailor-made travel, our commitment to customer service and our philosophy of always trying to go the extra mile."

WINNING WAY: Billington Travel

Contracts up for grabs at 'meet the buyer' event

OPPORTUNITIES for local businesses to land crucial contracts over the construction and operation of a major off-shore wind farm will be presented this week.

The free 'meet the buyer' event is designed to help firms in the county cash in on the London Array project being built on the north Kent coast.

Taking place on Wednesday, June 9, the event offers the opportunity to hear first hand from London Array about the goods and services it and some of its main contractors are likely to require.

There will also be opportunities to meet key staff on a one-to-one basis.

"There will be supply chain opportunities for local businesses on London Array," said Matt Britton, London Array's commercial and operations manager.

"Although the top tier of contracts have already been awarded, our main contractors will need to buy in goods and services as will London Array itself.

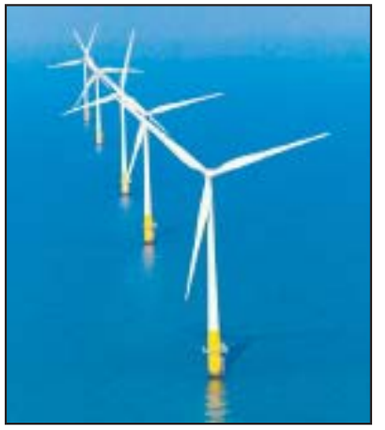
"Clearly, if we can identify local companies who can meet our needs then that is good news for both us and for Kent companies.

"Businesses that come to this event will be able to find out more about the opportunities available, how to put themselves in the best position to bid for work, and have the chance to network with our contractors, other businesses, support organisations and ourselves."

More than 60 different supplier categories have been identified by London Array.

They cover both onshore and offshore elements of the wind farm and vary from general support services such as professional advice, accommodation, waste management and transport through to portside support, health and safety training and equipment, specialist manufacturing skills and supplies, divers, boat crew and welders.

The event is being held at St Augustine's, Westgate-on-Sea, from 10.30am-4.30pm.



ROTARY CLUB: London Array will need a variety of services for the offshore farm

For further details and to register for a place, email joanne.prentice@eon-uk.com or call 07738 604337.

Once complete, London Array will be the world's first 1GW offshore wind farm.

Sited in the Thames Estuary, the project will supply enough power for around 750,000 homes – or a quarter of Greater London homes – and displace the emission of 1.9m tonnes of CO2 every year.

London Array will be built around 20km off the coasts of Kent and Essex. The wind farm will be installed on a 245km-squared site and will be built in two phases.

Phase one, planned to be complete in 2012, will cover 90km2 and include 175 turbines with a combined capacity of 630MW. If approved, the second phase will add enough capacity to bring the total to 1,000MW.

The project is being developed by a consortium comprising Dong Energy, E.ON and Masdar.

"NatWest have helped my T-shirt printing business go from medium to large"

Andrew Hodgson, Managing Director of Advartex

At NatWest, we're committed to helping British business. So when Advartex, a leading supplier of printed T-shirts, wanted to expand we were happy to provide the £300,000 funding package they needed for a new printing press. Thanks to this, the business now enjoys an annual turnover of £2.7 million and boasts an ever growing client list.

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Beware contractual mine-field of leasing

ENTERING into a commercial property agreement right now can be something of a double-edged sword.

With the market still volatile many portfolio owners are offering great deals to lure people in and get some return on properties which otherwise stand empty.

Yet for those taking the plunge and moving, up, down or sideways, there are still important issues to bear in mind. Particularly when it comes down to that old chestnut of signing on the dotted line.

For the uninitiated, failure to get the right terms agreed from the outset, or simply failing to ensure certain expected aspects of a contract are included can prove a costly mistake.

"It sounds simple," explains Glenn Godfrey of Kings Hill-based legal property firm Vertex Law, "but making sure you have the right terms in the lease for your business premises can help save you money in the long term.

"The average length of a commercial lease is seven years, although terms of up to 25 years are not uncommon so you must ensure the length of the lease suits your plan for the business.

"If you are taking on an existing lease check how long it has left to run and whether it contains a right to a new lease at the end of the current term.

"If there is only a short time left and there is no right to a new lease then you may need to approach the landlord with a view to negotiating a new one."

Richard Metcalfe, of Hadlow-based Metcalfe Stanley Hicks Chartered Building Surveyors, agrees you are better safe than sorry when it comes to signing commercial leases.

He points to the potential problems business-owners find themselves facing if they do not take extra care of the small print when it comes to carrying out repairs on properties they rent.

He explains: "Everybody who leases a commercial property needs to understand that unless you take appropriate steps before signing the lease you will be responsible for repairing the property before you leave, regardless of its condition when you first occupy it.

"Failing to understand the terms of your lease and its obligations can leave many businesses facing substantial and unwelcome costs at the end of their term.

"In the vast majority of cases it is the responsibility of the outgoing leaseholder to repair and reinstate the property before the end of the lease. In the absence of this the leaseholder must compensate the landlord.

"Getting the work done can be disruptive to the leaseholder's business and may force them to vacate early. Negotiating a financial sum with the landlord can be difficult and involve substantial legal costs."

CLEAR VIEWS: Failure to get the right terms when agreeing a lease could prove to be costly

Perhaps unsurprisingly, given the firm's line of business, they urge all to turn to a chartered surveyor at the point any deal is entered. But the potential pitfalls don't end there for the uninitiated.

As Glenn Godfrey of Vertex Law adds when it comes signing a new lease: "Stamp Duty Land Tax is payable on the grant of a new lease based on the rent payable over the lifetime of the lease, so the longer the lease the greater the Stamp Duty Land Tax liability is likely to be.

"Some commercial leases are granted with a statutory right to a new lease – security of tenure – at the end of the lease term.

"Leases up to 10 years tend not to be granted with a right to a new lease, although it may be possible to negotiate with the landlord.

Consent

"Most leases allow the landlord to reassess the rent at set periods and maintain it at full market value, or rent can be reviewed by linking it to the turnover of the business."

He warns the landlord may ask, particularly if a business is run through a new company, that either the businessman or a third party provide a personal guarantee for the obligations under the lease.

Alternatively, a deposit of between three and 12 months' rent may be required.

He adds: "Most leases require the tenant to maintain and repair at least part of the premises so it is important you understand the extent of your obligation.

"Make sure you do not have to deal with any disrepair caused before you occupied the premises. Often a new lease includes a series of photographs showing the premises at the start of the lease, leaving less room for argument regarding the condition in which the premises are maintained.

"Where premises form part of a larger building the landlord may retain responsibility for the repair of the structure, the roof and the common parts of the building. They may also undertake maintenance of shared facilities.

"In these circumstances a landlord will usually levy a service charge and it is important that it is assessed fairly and you understand what is included. If you are concerned over the condition of the premises, inform your solicitor and consider instructing a surveyor to carry out an inspection.

"If you wish to sell or relocate during the lease term, there are two options open to you.

"You can transfer your lease to another party or grant a new lease to another party.

"Usually the terms of a lease require the tenant to seek the landlord's consent to either. Most leases allow some internal non-structural alterations but not structural alterations."

Richard Metcalfe concludes: "Too often businesses believe that, as they are leasing rather than purchasing, there's no need for a building survey. This is a dangerous misconception and before signing any commercial lease you must obtain proper professional advice and quantify your liabilities.

"As a lease nears its end, landlords also need to take appropriate legal advice and consult a chartered building surveyor.

"A Schedule of Dilapidations must be prepared and served on the lessee in good time and sufficient detail."

NEXT WEEK: BUSINESS WEEK SPOTLIGHT WILL FOCUS ON AGRICULTURAL BUSINESS

New IoD HQ based at Kent Science Park

THE Institute of Directors (IoD) has set up a new headquarters at the Kent Science Park near Sittingbourne.

Representing almost 1,700 directors across the county, the Kent branch is one of the largest in the South East, which is itself the largest region in the UK.

David Philpott, recently appointed chairman of the IoD Kent, said: "We're delighted to have moved to what is another great example of why Kent is such an exciting place for business.

"I understand many of the companies based there are developing new technologies which look set to ensure Kent becomes a truly 21st century Garden of England."

James Speck, site director at Kent Science Park, added: "It is great to welcome the IoD to the park. It already has a number of members on site among the 1,100-plus people working here.

"As part of the move Kent Science Park will become an IoD marketing partner and we are discussing how we can work together to reach out to the county's business community and raise the profile of the burgeoning community of science and technology companies."

WELCOME: Debbie Cameron of IoD Kent, accepts the keys to the office from James Speck, site director at Kent Science Park

The team from IoD Kent are based in Building 550, which is also used by the Seeda Kent innovation growth team.

• KENT'S business leaders are invited to a business breakfast hosted by the IoD to launch the three-day spectacular Kent County Show at the Detling Showground on Friday July 16.

Guest speaker at the IoD Kent branch breakfast is Tom Hart-Dyke, of Lullingstone Castle, plant hunter and Kentish entrepreneur.

The ticket price will include members' passes for the whole day at the Kent County Show, giving exclusive access to all areas of the show.

Tickets for the breakfast, which include a member's pass to the show are £39 for IoD members, £49 for non-members.

To book a space contact the branch on 01732 849570 or email iod.kent@iod.com.

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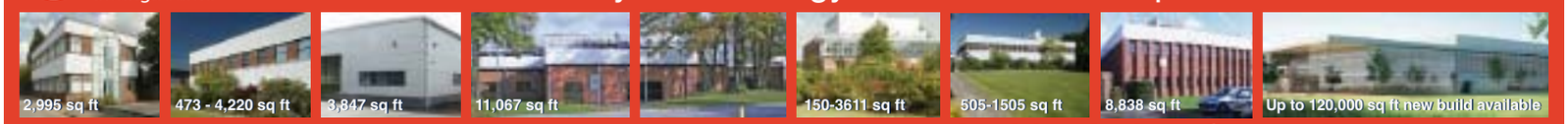

Set in 55 acres of beautifully manicured grounds, Kent Science Park has a wide range of commercial property to let. Park features include; flexible lease terms, competitive rents, high security, unrivalled broadband and connectivity, a vibrant business community, swimming pool and leisure facilities, cafe & shop.

A wide choice. One unique location.

All enquiries, contact our agents or Kent Science Park direct: 01795 411500

Timeline

KOS Media sport takes a look at the highlights of all the sporting action from the last 50 years

1960 **50 YEARS AGO:** IT took Hampshire less than an hour to knock off the 85 runs needed for victory over Kent at Southampton, after a battling rearguard action by the visitors staved off an innings defeat.

Chasing 338 in a County Championship match, Kent were all out for just 143 in their first innings and 'invited' to follow on by the hosts.

Colin Cowdrey, who earlier in the week had been named England captain for the forthcoming Test with South Africa, was the mainstay of the second innings, reaching 90 not out at lunch on the final day.

The next highest score, however, was Richardson's 43 and with Cowdrey running out of partners, the captain was out after five hours for 131.

Within half an hour Hampshire had mopped up the tail and with Cowdrey himself having a bowl, the home side won by nine wickets.

1985 **25 YEARS AGO:** THE FISA hastily announced Brands Hatch would host an extra round of the Formula One championship, a European Grand Prix, on September 22, after two races were cancelled.

The Belgian Grand Prix at Spa Francorchamps was postponed due to an unsafe track, caused by a decision to resurface the circuit less than a fortnight before the race.

A planned race for New York was also called off, leaving the FISA to plug the gap with an additional race in Kent.

2000 **10 YEARS AGO:** KENT'S Sunday League campaign stuttered at The Nevill, as they went down to a six-run defeat to Gloucestershire.

Veteran batsman Kim Barnett hit 62 and Australian Ian Harvey made 58 as the visitors reached 192 for 5 from 45 overs.

Min Patel (pictured) was the pick of Kent's bowlers with 2 for 37.

Harvey struck an early blow in the run chase when he had Matthew Walker caught behind by Jack Russell, but David Fulton and Alan Wells took Kent to 130 for 3.

The former's dismissal saw Kent slump to 186 all out with two balls left in the final over.

Let's take this outside

Football ground stage for open-air boxing show

By **DAVID PRITCHARD**

AN OPEN-air boxing night at a Kent League football club showcasing the county's best talents, has been given the go-ahead, with a 2,000-strong sell-out predicted.

Undefeated heavyweight and local favourite Tom Dallas will top the six-fight bill in July, hosted at Lordswood FC's Martyn Grove. Several other Kent fighters have signd up for the show, with Ramsgate's Scott and Vinny Woolford and Gavin Tait from Sheerness also confirmed.

The ground has been given approval by officials from the British Boxing Board of Control and the night has been set up for Saturday, July 10.

Mark Rowe, Dallas' manager and promoter of the night, is predicting it will be a big success and believes it will be the first of many at Martyn Grove.

He said: "I think it'll be a nice event and gives an opportunity to parade Tom in front of his own fans, plus it's a chance to bring boxing back to Kent. We're making arrangements for 2,000 and with the level of interest shown I think it's the sort of number we could quite easily get.

"You have the leisure centre there as well, which could host indoor shows, but I think we will most definitely see a show out in the open every year."

TOP OF THE BILL: Big-hitting Tom Dallas is excited by the prospect of boxing in front of his home supporters Picture: ADY KERRY

Top of the bill will be Dallas, a rising star who has climbed to eighth in the national heavyweight rankings. The 25-year-old from Chatham is undefeated in his 10 professional bouts and is excited by the prospect.

He said: "I haven't boxed so close to home before and this is right on my doorstep. Even as an amateur I've never fought outside and I think it'll be a different kind of atmosphere. Hopefully it'll be a nice summer's evening and everyone will enjoy themselves, I personally think it'll be a sell-out."

It will be the second fight in a fortnight for Dallas, who is on the card of a fight night in Brentwood, Essex, on June 25, with his opponents in both fights yet to be confirmed.

TOP SEED: Scotland's Alan Clyne

Youth players are squash tournament's big legacy

THE inaugural Kent Open squash tournament reaches its climax this weekend with organisers optimistic it has laid the foundations for a sustained legacy.

The week-long event attracted entries from 16 countries for the main draw at The Mote Squash Club in Maidstone, with the final held today.

Alan Thatcher, tournament director and chairman of Kent Squash, is delighted with the outcome. He is already looking to secure the backing needed to turn the Kent Open into an annual stop on the Professional Squash Association's World Tour.

"The key to that is continued sponsorship," he said. "We're very grateful to England Squash for helping us establish the event this year, but we know the level of assistance might not be as high next year because they have other counties to support.

"We're actively looking to attract new sponsors, it helps when people can come down and see what we're doing and the fantastic level of play."

From the outset the aim has been to use the tournament to engage young people and attract them to the sport.

The Kent Squash Festival has given more than 300 schoolchildren across the county an opportunity to try the sport over the last three months, with many of the senior players helping at coaching sessions this week.

It is hoped the experience will provide the start of an increase in interest in the sport, which can be built on at successive Kent Opens.

Cricket at Tunbridge Wells
Wednesday 9 June
Kent Spitfires
v Sussex Sharks
Gates open 3.30pm Start time 5.30pm

Cricket at Canterbury
Friday 11 June
Kent Spitfires
v Middlesex Panthers
Gates open 3.30pm Start time 5.30pm

Kent County Cricket Club

Tel: 01227 456886 Email: communications.kent@ecb.co.uk Web: www.kentccc.com

Racer Ian has a field day

ASHFORD rider Ian Field won the South East Road Race League's Bank Holiday stage race last weekend, after breaking away on stage three and holding his lead on the final day.

The 23-year-old cyclo-cross professional's time of 7:03.41 for the four stages was enough to give him the yellow jersey by 33 seconds from his closest rival, Malcolm Davis of Kent Cycles.

Last Saturday's opening stages were both held at Fowlmead, near Deal, with Felix English taking the prologue time trial, before James Lewis won a circuit race.

Field was part of a 15-man group that broke away on the second lap of a 120k loop around Lamberhurst and Frant on Sunday.

"With a lap to go I attacked," he said. "There were just six of us left, but because I was the highest placed rider overall I stayed at the front. One guy tailed off but towards the finish they just seemed to sit up in front of me."

There was a brief alarm on the final stage, 100k round Biddenden, when Field pulled his foot out of a pedal and had to go onto the grass to avoid a crash, but he finished in a group with the stage winner, Lewis, to claim the title.

WINNER: Ian Field
Pic by Dave Hayward

'Time to move on and make 2018 our year'

Kent FA chief says despite the controversial resignation of Lord Triesman, England's bid to host the 2018 FIFA World Cup is still very much on track

NOT a lot takes me by surprise in football after all the years I have been associated with the sport, but Lord Triesman's resignation as chairman of the Football Association certainly did.

There's been lots said and written about comments he was reported to have said, and while I wouldn't want to get involved in details of that, what I would say is it was hugely regrettable and very sad as far as the individual was concerned.

Lord Triesman and I get on extremely well, there's no secret about that, but it has happened and we move on and at the FA we have moved on positively.

The FA board sat down after we learned of Triesman's resignation and it was decided Roger Burden – of the National Game Board at the FA – would take over as sole acting chairman, while alongside my chairmanship of the Football Regulatory Authority I would take an acting position as chairman of the FA Council.

As a board we will begin the selection process for finding a new chairman, but independency is to be looked at again – we may look into seeing if we can find someone who has a football background in our next appointment, but that might take some time.

Triesman resigned not only from the FA but also in his role as chairman of England's bid to host the 2018 FIFA World Cup.

There's no point making out what happened was something we would have wished for, things were going well with 2018 and suddenly we lose the chairman of our bid. But I have been quite impressed in the last week or so with the way we have managed to speak to the vast majority of executive members at Fifa who will vote and I believe our bid, which is a very good one, is still very much on track and there's no reason to believe it has been seriously affected by events of the last few weeks.

While England's performance in the World Cup, which starts in five day's time, would, I'm sure, give a little boost to our 2018 bid, it's not based on performance, it is based on infrastructure and stadia and stability in a country. One hopes those that judge us on what is an excellent bid, will make their decisions solely on that basis.

The expectancy for England in this World Cup is enormous. I think deep down there is a huge expectation amongst the public. The atmosphere for the Mexico game, which I was at, was electric.

Perhaps the country needs the England team to do well for all sorts of social and economic reasons; maybe we could all do with some good news.

There's no doubt the country will benefit from the legacy of a World Cup. I would anticipate that if we were to have a successful tournament, in all aspects of participation, we would see an uplift in Kent.

The way we can maximise this opportunity is to ensure there are enough coaches to coach, enough clubs to join and in this county we have a good range of charter standard clubs to do just that.

The opportunity is there and a successful World Cup gives you that and I'm certain football wouldn't pass that up.

The one thing that concerns me is the future of some of our senior clubs who have seen their gates dwindle over the last couple of years. There's clearly a lot of hard work that needs to be done, and it won't be easy, but the World Cup could help. I would encourage the senior clubs in Kent to be proactive and try and sit on the back of success with the publicity of the World Cup.

If communities want their clubs to remain representing them, they have got to back them. If they don't, they'll lose them.

• ***Barry Bright, the chairman of the Kent FA and vice-chairman of the FA, is one of KOS Media's regular sports columnists.***

OUT OF HIS HANDS: Lord Triesman quit last month casting doubt over England's 2018 bid

VICTORY: Kent celebrate county title success

County side set for bigger tests after plate win

HAVING lifted the Bill Beaumont Plate last weekend, Kent can now look forward to games against two of rugby's powerhouses in next year's County Championship.

County bosses are already preparing to take on Cornwall and Gloucestershire in the top tier of the competition, having watched Kent produce a stunning comeback to defeat Warwickshire at Blackheath last weekend.

Trailing 27-10 with a quarter of the game remaining, Kent rallied and levelled the scores in the last minute of normal time courtesy of Jack Knight's try and an ice-cool conversion from Tom White.

White then kicked two penalties in extra-time to seal the victory, completing a superb campaign which also saw Kent defeat Hampshire, Somerset and Middlesex.

Impressive

Kent RFU president David Corry said: "The comeback was very impressive and once the game went into extra time, there was only one team going to win it.

"Great credit goes to [head coach] Chris Wilkins – he devised a very intense training programme and Simon Jervis, the new Westcombe Park coach, gave him excellent support.

"Rugby in Kent is doing well and a lot of the boys in the Kent team have come up through the county's development system, which is encouraging.

"What bigger incentive than games against Cornwall and Gloucestershire?

"At the end of a season which most people already think is over-long, the commitment from all the players was commendable."

If you want to get involved in playing, administrating or officiating in football this summer, contact **fabfooty@kentfa.com**

Unsung heroes of grass-roots game

WHILE players, managers and even referees can dominate the headlines in football, one group of people who keep the whole show on the road are often overlooked.

Particularly at grass-roots level, organised football simply could not happen without the dedication of an army of volunteers working behind the scenes.

Selflessly giving up their free time so others can enjoy the game, they are the glue which holds everything together.

It is an issue the Football Association are attempting to address by launching a series of community awards which look to recognise the unsung heroes.

One example is Mark Rogers, who won Kent's Outstanding Contribution to Community Football prize last month for his work as secretary at the Sheppey Sunday League. In his four years in the role he has helped transform the league's fortunes into a thriving competition.

While acknowledging the award as an honour, Rogers was surprised to receive it.

He said: "It's something I never thought I'd see, you do it because you love what you're doing. I didn't think I was doing anything special, I'm very passionate about grass roots football. It can be like a part-time job, but you get out what put in."

Lee Suter, football development officer at the Kent County Football Association, put the volunteers' dedication into perspective.

He said: "They are superb and tireless amount of hours we can never pay back. You can't put a value on their contribution, without them we would struggle to uphold our high standards."

It is not just ex-players giving something back. A group of teenagers in Kent are involved in the FA Leadership and Volunteering Programme, with Bradley Pay among the first to put in 50 hours.

The 16-year-old from Rainham said: "I love football and want to be involved as much as I can. I get a lot of happiness out of seeing the kids I coach enjoying themselves."

CONTRIBUTION: Mark Rogers won an award for his efforts in the Sheppey Sunday League

VOLUNTEER: Bradley Pay gets a buzz from watching kids enjoy his coaching sessions

Picture: ADY KERRY

MAGIC NUMBER: Andy Hessenthaler wants a squad of 21 players to begin next season

After contract talks Hess sets sights on new Gills transfers

AFTER holding talks with the out-of-contract players he wants to keep, Gillingham manager Andy Hessenthaler has turned his attention to transfer targets this week.

The new Gills boss is aiming for a maximum of 21 senior players in his squad next season. As it stands there are 13 players with contracts until at least next summer, while Barry Fuller, Garry Richards and Dennis Oli are considering new offers.

Experienced duo Mark Bentley and Simon Royce were the final players to meet up with their new boss this week. Hessenthaler wants to keep the pair, but any contracts offered would be on a lower level than their previous deal.

Terms

If all the five players agreed terms it would give Hessenthaler a squad of 18 senior players. If no players are sold it leaves him with room for three additions.

Top of the list is a striker to partner Simeon Jackson, the only player to reach double figures last season. Also required is a combative midfielder, which was the reason Adam Miller was released.

Hessenthaler said: "Adam's a good player but I think we perhaps need a different combination with Curtis Weston. I'm probably looking for someone with more experience of sitting in midfield. Someone to do what Paul Smith used to do, I don't think the squad has really got someone like that."

With Simon King's return now put back until the autumn, the final position on the wish-list is a left-footed centre-half. Darren Dennehy, who spent the second half of last season on loan at the Gills, is a target, although the chances of a move depend on his parent club Cardiff City.

Garden of England

World Cup bound Glen Johnson is part of an exclusive Kent club to play in major finals

By **FRED ATKINS**

GLEN Johnson's inclusion in the England World Cup squad allowed him to join an exclusive club, with far fewer members than the 23-man squad Fabio Capello selected for South Africa.

The Liverpool right-back becomes the latest member in a highly select group of players from Kent to have gone to a World Cup.

Paradoxically, although a trio of Irishmen with strong Kent connections have appeared in three different finals, Johnson, born in Greenwich but raised in Dartford, is believed to be the first to represent England.

Maidstone-born Andy Townsend, once of Welling United and now famed for his Tactics Truck and laser-sharp ITV punditry, played in all five games for the Republic in Italia 90 before he literally lit up USA 94 with his retina-frying blonde highlights.

Tony Cascarino, from St Paul's Cray, played in 1990, 94 and Euro 88 in Germany, not knowing at the time that his mother had been adopted, meaning he wasn't a blood relative of the Irish grandfather who had made him eligible.

In his autobiography, Cascarino admitted he was a "fake Irishman," the same words Teddy Sheringham used to describe Townsend as the pair swapped some cutting edge banter in the ITV studio after England's 5-1 win over Croatia last year.

A third Irishman, Gary Breen, played in Japan and South Korea in 2002, a decade after the Hendon-born defender made his professional debut for Maidstone United.

The county's strongest connection to a World Cup winner is probably George Cohen, who managed Tonbridge Angels in the mid-1970s, and now lives in Tunbridge Wells.

Two Kent-born players who went on to play for Manchester United came close to appearing for England, but Yalding's David Sadler, having won the European Cup with Manchester United in 1968, was cut from Sir Alf Ramsey's squad for Mexico 1970.

Gary Pallister was born in Ramsgate, but despite an England career that spanned from 1988 to 1996 he never played in a major tournament, a fate United's latest Kentish recruit Chris Smalling will be anxious to avoid.

A handful of players with Gillingham connections have appeared in qualifying games, including Wales' Steve Lovell and Andrew Crofts and Northern Ireland's Terry Cochrane.

KENT CONNECTION: Glen Johnson was raised in Dartford

Wynter warmer for Whites boss

SIGN OF THE TIMES: Ian Hendon completed his first signing

NEW Dover Athletic manager Ian Hendon has completed his first signing with the capture of defender Tom Wynter.

Hendon, the former Barnet manager, penned a one-year contract with the Conference South side last week and has moved quickly to sign Wynter after he was released by ex-Dover manager Andy Hessenthaler at Gillingham.

The 19-year-old can play at both full-back and in the centre of defence and is familiar with the Whites after enjoying a successful period on loan at the club last season. He is expected to sign a two-year deal at the club but won't be able to join up with the squad until August when his contract ends at Gills.

Dover chairman Jim Parmenter said: "We had a wanted list of three or four players and [Wynter] was among those. He was very good for us when he was on loan at the club and only left us last season because he was needed by the Gillingham first-team.

"He is a young developing player who has experience of playing in League One."

Hendon, meanwhile, is under no illusions about the task ahead following on from Hessenthaler, but is eager to begin the club's push for promotion next season.

He said: "The challenge has been set. The chairman wants to get promoted in the next two years and the plan is to do that as soon as possible."

Fuller gets assurances

CONTRACT: Barry Fuller is hoping to sign a new Gills deal

Picture ADY KERRY

BARRY Fuller is hoping to put pen to paper on a new Gillingham contract as soon as possible after receiving assurances he will remain as team captain.

The 25-year-old was offered a new two-year deal in the spring, but negotiations took a back seat as the season reached its climax.

New boss Andy Hessenthaler is keen to keep Fuller and a new contract has been tabled. The defender is still in negotiations with chairman Paul Scally but is keen to sort his future out, particularly after Hessenthaler made it clear he would remain as skipper.

Fuller said: "There's still work to be done, who knows, it could take a day or two, or maybe a bit longer.

"Hopefully we can agree something and then I'll know what's going on. No player likes the uncertainty.

"When a new manager comes in, as a player you don't know if he has someone in mind who he wants to take the armband, but straight away he said there would be no changes, which is pleasing."

All over the place

Punishing timetable 'manic' says frustrated Kent skipper

By GLENN PEARSON

KENT captain Rob Key has described this year's domestic cricket schedule as a "nightmare" after a week that has seen his side play in all three formats.

Key's side started the week with a 58-run win against Scotland in the Clydesdale Bank 40 on Bank Holiday Monday, before back-to-back Friends Provident t20 games at Essex on Wednesday night and Hampshire on Thursday night.

After finishing the game at the Rose Bowl, the Kent squad travelled back to county in the early hours of Friday morning to begin a four-day game on the same day against Nottinghamshire at Tunbridge Wells.

The exhaustive schedule, in which 'rest days' are usually consumed by travelling to and from grounds around the country, is a major challenge for Kent's small staff, with any injuries acquired certain to prove crucial to their fortunes.

Key, the Kent captain, was typically pragmatic about the situation, but is concerned about the impact on his already threadbare seam department.

He told this newspaper: "It's disappointing that we have to play a four-day game when we have just started Twenty20, it's almost a bit of a comedown really. It'd be better to play Twenty20 all the way through.

"It's been a manic schedule all the way through and it has been really hard to be honest with you. We have been almost playing back-to-back championship games with the odd one-dayer thrown in the middle of it and now we have Twenty20.

"I don't think there is an issue about being able to change the way you play, I think it's more about mentally going from high pressure games that these Twenty20 games are, travelling and then off to another one. It's got to be a nightmare for a bowler hasn't it? If you are a quick bowler trying to play under the current schedule, it's very difficult."

If Key was holding back on his thoughts about the amount of games packed into such a short space of time, team-mate Darren Stevens was a bit more vociferous, labelling it as "ridiculous" and a "bit of a joke".

He said: "They crammed it all in at the start of the season; the game against Nottinghamshire is our eighth championship game and it's only June. It's a joke really. There has got to be a lot more thinking and organising.

"Our days off are travelling days which means we don't get any training time. We have had a full week this week and it's hard, but we are paid to play cricket and I suppose we'll have to just get on with it."

Picture: ADY KERRY

EXHAUSTING: Rob Key says this season's schedule is tough for county cricketers

Cavaday given El

NAOMI Cavaday (pictured) was unable to upset the odds as she began the grass court season with defeat to British number one Elena Baltacha this week.

The 21-year-old from Sidcup got the toughest draw possible in the first round of the AEGON Trophy. At number 62 in the world, Baltacha is more than 100 places above Cavaday in the rankings and was the number one seed in Nottingham.

Wednesday's meeting was closely fought, but eventually went to form as Baltacha sealed a 6-3, 6-3 victory.

Cavaday fared better in the doubles with partner Anna Smith, winning their first-round tie in straight sets. It put them through to face Anne Keothavong and Mel South in an all-British quarter-final, which took place after this newspaper went to press.

Cavaday will be hoping to be among those to receive a wild card to the Wimbledon Championships, which are announced on Tuesday.

Cray to host Guyana

CRAY Wanderers will face international opposition for the first time in their 150-year history when they take on Guyana at Hayes Lane on August 8.

The game forms part of Cray's anniversary celebrations and will see Guyana captain Shawn Beveney return to the club where he spent two spells, in 2008 and 2009.

Guyana, nicknamed the Golden Jaguars, are 122nd in the Fifa world rankings and they were beaten 3-1 on aggregate by Surinam in the early stages of South American World Cup qualifying.

Their squad also includes Staines Town striker Howard Newton and his brother Jake, a defender with Havant & Waterlooville.

Stupples eyes US Open after qualifying success

KAREN Stupples will take her place in women's golf's highest profile tournament next month after successfully coming through qualifying for the US Women's Open.

The 36-year-old finished second in the 36-hole event in Milton, Georgia, last week to claim one of the six spots up for grabs.

It means Stupples, from Deal, will line up alongside the biggest names in women's golf at Oakmont Country Club in Pennsylvania, next month.

The US Women's Open is the sport's most prestigious title and with a prize fund of more than £2.7 million, it is also the most lucrative.

Speaking from her home in Florida, Stupples admitted qualifying meant everything.

She told Kent on Sunday: "Honestly it's the biggest tournament we play in. There are massive crowds, the organisers always do a good job and make you feel like you're going to a special event.

"If I hadn't qualified I wouldn't have watched it. I know what that's like, I watched it just after I had [first child] Logan and it was one of the driving forces to get me back quicker.

"I was jealous of all the girls that were playing, so it's a relief to have got through."

The qualifying success came at the start of a hectic few weeks on the calendar, with the second Major of the season, the LPGA Championship, held later this month. After leading the season's first Major – April's Kraft Nabisco Championship – heading into the final round, Stupples will go into both events with genuine confidence of adding to her victory in the 2004 British Open.

The US Women's Open begins on July 8.

QUALIFIED: Karen Stupples will compete at the US Women's Open next month

Picture ADY KERRY

Mote buoyed by fine start

THE Mote have always had one of the best grounds in Kent and this season it looks as though they might have discovered a team to match.

Going into the weekend's fixtures the Maidstone side were top of the Kent League Premier Division table after four games, a dramatic turnaround for a team languishing two divisions below just three season ago.

Relegated from the Premier Division for the first time ever in 2003, they fell into the third tier in 2006, but bounced back as champions at the first attempt.

They came third in Division One in 2008 and returned to the top flight by finishing runners-up to Lordswood last year.

"We're not counting any chickens, but I said at the start of the season that our goal this year is to finish in the top-three and that's still pretty much the case," said Tom Harvey, a veteran of the side relegated in 2003, and now the first-team captain.

Picture IGOR KUPCO

GOOD START: Mote led Premier Division

The side is largely unchanged from the one that won promotion last year, but has been bolstered by former Lashings bowler Kenny George and the return of ex-Hampshire bowler Tom Parsons from Sevenoaks Vine.

The acid test of The Mote's title credentials could come next Saturday when they travel to reigning champions Bromley, but Harvey is undaunted by the challenge.

"I've played Premier cricket before with The Mote and other clubs, so I knew what to expect (when made captain), and I was looking forward to it," he said. "I think Bexley seem a good bowling unit and St Lawrence have got a strong batting line-up, but other than that I think we can compete with what we've seen so far."

Lap error costs Kris

A MISTAKE with the lap board saw Kristian House (pictured) mistakenly attack too early in a Tour Series event this week on a night to forget for his Rapha Condor Sharp team.

Picture CHERYL KING

The 30-year-old from Canterbury was given the wrong information by his team and attacked prematurely in Portsmouth, allowing his rivals to take advantage later in the race.

Bad luck and miscommunication problems beset his team-mates, which saw Rapha Condor Sharp slip to fourth in the overall standings. After racing in Exeter on Thursday, the series continues in Southport next week.

House pulled off his best result of the season last month, winning a stage on the Tour of Japan. It is all part of his build-up to defending the national road race championship he won last summer, the biggest title of his career. This year's event takes place in Lancashire on Sunday, June 27.

Rowing for gold

ROWERS Dan Ritchie and Kelsie Gibson were among the gold medal winners at the Rowing World Cup in Slovenia last weekend.

Ritchie was part of a new-look Great Britain eights squad who stormed to victory, while adaptive rower Gibson boosted her London 2012 Paralympic hopes with gold in the mixed-coxed fours at Lake Bled.

Ritchie, 23, from Herne Bay, was joined by former Olympic champion Greg Searle, who made his return to the sport after 10 years away. After a slow start, Great Britain managed to overhaul the Netherlands to win the gold medal by a second in last Sunday's final.

Maidstone Invicta rower Gibson continued her good international form with her second gold medal since earning selection into the GB squad in April. The 16-year-old's coxed fours crew managed to fend off Germany, Ukraine, Poland and Italy to win gold.

Conway 'lucky he'll be able to walk and talk about it'

Picture: PA PHOTOS

LUCKY ESCAPE: Mike Conway survived horrific Indy 500 crash

MIKE Conway is one of the luckiest men alive after he cheated death last weekend in an horrific 220mph crash in the famous Indy 500, ***writes Tom Howard.***

The 26-year-old from Sevenoaks miraculously escaped the shunt with fractures to his left leg and back, sidelining him for three months. For many the scenes would put them off the sport but Conway, who admitted he is lucky to be alive, is eager to get back behind the wheel.

The chilling accident came when he was heading into the final lap of the prestigious 500-mile race at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway.

He tangled with Ryan Hunter-Reay, who was coasting after running out of fuel, and his car pitched into the air at 220mph before it smashed into the circuit's perimeter fencing. Marshals and medical staff rushed to the scene and managed to retrieve him from the cockpit, which was all that remained intact. He was immediately flown to a hospital in Indianapolis.

In a statement released this week, Conway said: "I'm feeling fine all things considered. I'm just thankful that I came out of it alive. I'm hoping for a speedy recovery and am already looking forward to being back behind the wheel of a race car."

Mark Blundell, Conway's manager and an ex-Formula One and Indycar driver, witnessed the crash while watching the race live on television. The 44-year-old experienced his fair share of accidents during a four-year stint racing on similar ovals in North America 10 years ago, and is amazed his driver escaped the crash alive.

He told this newspaper: "The first thought was 'I hope to God he is okay' because I know how big those accidents can be. Mike's a lucky guy. Luckily for him he is going to able to walk around and talk about it.

"When you're in an accident like that you really do think 'this could be it'. Until it happens you're not aware of what the consequences are."

Up until the accident Conway was enjoying his second experience of the famous Indy 500. He started 15th on the grid and maintained a challenge in the top-10 before an inspired fuel strategy saw him lead the race for 15 laps before the accident.

STEVO DOUBTS ENGLAND PICK

Kent all-rounder Darren's not expecting a Twenty20 call-up despite sizzling form

RUN MACHINE: Darren Stevens has been in scintillating form for Kent, but is not expecting England to come knocking

Picture: ADY KERRY

By **GLENN PEARSON**

BIG-HITTING Kent all-rounder Darren Stevens thinks the England selectors see him as "over the hill" and consequently doesn't expect to receive a call-up to the side for this summer's Twenty20 internationals.

Despite a run-drenched summer so far in which Stevens has been Kent's stand-out player having hit 533 first-class runs, including three hundreds, the 34-year-old finds the likes of Eoin Morgan, Craig Kieswetter, Luke Wright and Michael Yardy ahead of him in the queue for an England spot.

The all-rounder, who also missed out on a place in the side for the recent ICC World Twenty20, did his prospects no harm in front of the television cameras on Wednesday night, hitting an unbeaten 49 to lead Kent to a thrilling six-wicket win against at Essex, but Stevens feels the door might just be shut on an England call.

Surprised

"I can't do anything about it, all I can do is keep doing what I'm doing for Kent and if it ever comes about, and I'd be very surprised now, I would obviously take it with both hands," he told Kent on Sunday. "I'm probably a little bit over the hill as they'd say; I'm 34 and they've got young lads that are getting in the side and doing well.

"They've just won the Twenty20 World Cup, which was fantastic. If I ever got the chance it would be great, but at the moment I have just got to do as well as I can for Kent."

Often seen as a limited overs specialist, it's in the County Championship where Stevens has been most impressive. He is just 324 runs short of the 857 he scored in Division Two last season, and is well on the way to outdoing his best return of 1,277 in his first season at Kent after a move from Leicestershire in 2005.

Stevens spends the majority of the winter playing cricket abroad, which included featuring in a Twenty20 competition in Zimbabwe earlier this year, but it was hard work with coach Paul Farbrace in the nets at Canterbury that he puts down to his good early season form.

"I worked on a few things in the winter but it didn't quite work out for me, I came back early season and worked on something else with Farby and it's going nicely," he said. "Four-day cricket has been going very well for me, batting at six down the order. It's working for us, we have a couple of young lads that we sort of want to nurse in and we are going okay with it.

"There's lots more improvement to do and I'll keep working out ways to get runs on each different pitch, but I'm loving it at the moment."

Having won the Twenty20 Cup with both Leicestershire and Kent, as well as featuring prominently for the county in the last two finals days, it's surprising Stevens hasn't yet forced his way into the England side.

Yet with this year's Friends Provident t20 well and truly under way, it's unlikely to bother Stevens, who has never hidden his love of the shorter form of the game.

He said: "I can't get enough of it really. There are always challenges whether you go out to bat, bowl or field and it's electric.

"It would be nice to get to finals day again, but the games are going to be tougher this year with two overseas players in most of the teams we come up against."

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